

Halesowen

# CHRONICLE



Thursday, January 28, 2016

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# CALL FOR SPORTS CAR ROAD BAN

Report by Richard Guttridge

THE father of a 21-year-old woman who was killed by a driver as he raced at 100mph on a Black Country street has called for 'performance' cars to be banned from the roads.

Gerard McManus told MPs high-powered cars have 'no place on our roads'.

His daughter Rebecca, a former Stourbridge student from Oldbury, was killed in May 2014 after a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution driven by Sukhinder Mannan crashed into her as she waited at a bus stop on Hagley Road West, Bearwood with friend Harriet Barnsley, who was seriously injured. Mannan was driving at 101mph in a 40mph zone.

Rebecca, a promising poet who had studied A-levels at King Edward VI College, had just completed a three-year degree in English.

Garage manager Gerard Mannan, from Halesowen, was jailed for eight years after he admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

The driver he had been racing, Inderjit Singh, of Cranbourne Avenue, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, was given a one-year jail term, after pleading guilty to dangerous driving in his BMW M3. He had pulled out of the race seconds before impact.

## Test

Mr McManus urged MPs to act in a written submission to a House of Commons inquiry into road traffic laws.

He said the Mitsubishi Evolution was advertised as a 'sports' car. He wrote: "As Mitsubishi clearly state the Evo has been developed through decades of competing successfully at the highest level of international rallying, why is it on the road?"

"More and more cars are being produced with a racing specification, they will never go anywhere near a race track. I find that a bit puzzling because surely the driver of these powerful cars will want to test the vehicle, but where? Well, on our roads obviously."

"Thirty mph speed limit, 40mph speed limit? It will not matter, and myself like so many road users will watch in horror as cars are driven at speed, or raced with others with no consideration for others or the consequences."

"Those behind the wheel are so often totally immature."

Mr McManus called for a halt to marketing being able to refer to performance or speed and people wishing to drive them needing a special category licence which allows them to drive on a racetrack.

## CHAINMAKER'S DAUGHTER MARKS 100TH BIRTHDAY



Still independent at 100 years of age — Annie Overton with her son Paul, MP James Morris and Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Barbara Price

HER parents were both chainmakers with her father helping make the anchor chain for The Titanic but their daughter Annie's life took a very different path.

Born during the First World War, she was the third of 11 children and now Annie Overton is celebrating her 100th birthday.

Brought up in Cradley Heath, the daughter of master chainmaker Caleb Smith, her family made small chains in the brewhouse at the back of the family home in Corgreaves Road.

After leaving school at 14, she went to work at Parker & Osborn mirror manufac-

turers in Birmingham, where she met her husband-to-be John Overton, known as Jack.

They married in 1940 in Rowley Church after her family had moved to Mincing Lane. Jack, a glass beveler, worked in a reserved occupation in a steel rolling mill during the Second World War while Annie helped to make the windows for Spitfire cockpits.

Their only child Paul was born at the end of the war, in October 1945, at their house in Park Avenue, Rowley Regis, where she has lived for 75 years.

Annie was widowed in 1979 when Jack died,

aged just 64, of a stroke. Paul, a 70-year-old chartered architectural technologist, cares for his mother while running his business from the family home.

He said: "She is a remarkable woman, and still independent at 100. She has had some strokes, but she's still a very lively little lady."

Annie was joined for her birthday celebrations by Mayor of Sandwell Councillor Barbara Price, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis James Morris, and her only surviving sibling, brother Donald, 80.

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## EVACUATION

Schools hit by more  
hoax bomb threats

FIVE schools in the Black Country and one in Birmingham received hoax bomb threats — exactly one week after a similar scare caused four schools to be evacuated.

The Earls High School in Halesowen, Four Dwellings Academy in Quinton, Oldbury Academy, Bristnall Hall Academy, George Salter Academy and Holly Lodge Science College in Sandwell were evacuated after receiving bomb threat phone calls at around 9am on Tuesday.

Bristnall Hall reopened with the rest shut for the day. Last Tuesday Leasowes High School was among four evacuated.

## COMMUTING

Disruption ahead  
at station car park

MOTORISTS using the car park at Old Hill train station face disruption due to resurfacing work.

Works at Old Hill station will run from February 1 to 12 with the number of spaces reduced during that time. The car park will be closed completely on February 12 under plans revealed by Centro.

The station will remain open during the works. Motorists are asked not to leave their cars overnight in the car park from January 31.

## DEATH

Medics fought to  
save accident victim

A MAN has died after an accident at a delivery firm depot in Brierley Hill. The tragedy happened at Tuffnells Parcel Express, on The Wallows Industrial Estate.

Paramedics fought to save the man but he died at the scene after suffering a 'traumatic cardiac arrest'.

Emergency services were called to the premises in Fens Pool Avenue at around 9.50pm on Friday.

Ambulance service spokesman John Hawker said: "Advanced life support was carried out at the scene by medics but despite everyone's best efforts, nothing could be done to save the man."

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SCHOOLS TOP  
OF THEIR CLASS



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# Man killed by car was 'lying in road'



Run over — Anthony Maskell

A FATHER-OF-TWO was already lying in the road when he was run over and killed by a car that failed to stop, an inquest heard.

Anthony Maskell, 50, was found on Birchfield Lane, Oldbury, after being run over by a silver Nissan Micra.

Smethwick Coroners Court heard how Mr Maskell of Westgate Terrace, Rowley Regis, died from a serious and head injury on July 30.

The coroner ruled his death was as a result of a road traffic accident.

Mr Maskell, known as Tony to friends and family, worked as a lorry

driver. He had been drinking the night of the accident but the court heard it was unclear exactly how he had ended up in the road.

Black Country Coroner Zafar Siddique said: "Mr Maskell had been socialising, drinking, and bottles of cider were found with him."

## Dual-carriageway

"He had attempted to cross the dual-carriageway on Birchfield Lane. It was not clear whether he had been to a public house but for some reason he was lying in the road."

"A Nissan Micra was caught on CCTV in the area and drove over him. Sadly he received a catastrophic head injury and died in Queen Elizabeth Hospital."

Mr Siddique said: "It is unclear exactly how he ended up lying in the road."

"On balance he died from a road traffic collision but I have not come to the conclusion it was an accidental death."

The search continues for the driver of the silver 2000/2003 Nissan Micra.

Mr Maskell's father, David, said: "Anyone with a bit of decency would have stopped."

# Borough's schools come top of class for GCSEs

SCHOOLS in Dudley have come top of the pile for GCSE and A-level results in the Black Country for the second year running, according to the latest figures.

Dudley was top but the borough slipped down the rankings compared with last year's figures.

A total of 53 per cent of pupils gained five or more GCSEs at A\*-C including English and maths, a slight fall on last year's figure of 53.3 per cent.

Old Swinford Hospital School was the leading performer for the second year running with 81 per cent of pupils achieving benchmark grades.

Paul Kilbride, head of the school in Heath Lane, Stourbridge, said: "The stats reflect the hard work of the students and the staff."

## Effort

"The kids put so much time and effort into their work. They are a credit to themselves and the school."

Summerhill School in Kingswinford came second on 70 per cent, while Bishop Milner Catholic College in Dudley and Windsor High School in Halesowen both saw 69 per cent of pupils gain the benchmark grades.

Windsor High headteacher Stephen Lanckham, said: "We have been delighted with another set of excellent results and recognise that they represent the hard work, commitment and collaboration of staff and students. Well done to all concerned."

Castle High School and Visual Arts College came 19th in the table with 35 per cent of 113 pupils achieving five or more GCSEs at A\* to C, including English and maths.

The Coseley School, which is undergoing a consultation over its future, slumped down the tables to 20th place with just 31 per cent of pupils gaining five or more GCSEs at A\*-C including English and maths.

The only school below Coseley School was the Elmfield Rudolf Steiner School in Stourbridge, where



Delighted — Windsor High School headteacher Stephen Lanckham with pupils at the school at Richmond Street, Halesowen

none of the 21 pupils who took GCSEs managed to gain benchmark grades.

Across the borough 53 per cent of pupils taking their exams in 2015 gained the Government's benchmark of five or more GCSEs at A\* to C, including English and mathematics — a slight drop from the previous year's results.

Dudley sits in 117th position in the national table for GCSEs. Last year

the borough was 114th. The figures, which were released last week by the Department for Education, also showed that Dudley came 36th out of 152 local authorities for A-level results.

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for children's services, vowed that the council would continue to build on the improvements shown by its schools in recent years.

He said: "While we are yet to receive the final validated results, we are pleased that early indications show that we have maintained our standards in GCSE attainment. We will continue to build on this over the next 12 months and support our schools and our young people in achieving the very best."

The borough had improved primary school performance last year.

# Festival of rock music in memory of Christina

A FESTIVAL of rock music will be held to mark the memory of Halesowen 16-year-old Christina Edkins, who was stabbed to death on a Birmingham bus as she travelled to school in Halesowen.

It will be the third anniversary of Christina's death on March 7, when she was stabbed by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane on a bus as it travelled along Hagley Road.

Each year since the Leasowes High School student's death a Purple & Diamond bash has been held, organised by Christina's parents Kath and Jason, along with friends Andy Lea and Donna Burrows, among others.

The fund has also gone on to help several youth groups and projects and also delivers presents to the children's ward at Birmingham's Children's hospital each Christmas. But this year they will be hosting a festival on June 4 at the Rainbow Venues in Dibbith, which will see 15 bands play across two stages.

Organiser and family friend Dave Williamson said: "The event itself came from my love of live rock and metal music. I know quite a few bands. I decided to put this to good use and raise funds in memory of Christina and try to help boost the fund that has been set up for the good of children."

The event is supported by Kerrang Magazine and Dave is urging local businesses to get involved in the event, which is raising money for a scout hut.

Simelane, from Walsall, was detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

# Art works go on show at glass cone

THE Brierley Hill Society of Artists has returned with another exhibition at the Red House Glass Cone.

The show features over 75 original framed pieces of artwork, plus many unframed prints using watercolours, mixed media and acrylic.

Visitors will see a wide variety of works, covering local scenes like the cone itself, Himley Hall, Stewponey Locks, Ludlow and Bridgnorth to places further afield.

Other topics include animals, flowers, landscapes and even a cartoon of TV presenter and former MP Michael Portillo during a visit to the cone.

All of the work on display is for sale and prices start at £15. There is also a children's picture section. The exhibition will run until March 6.

# Virgin jobs threat in group's revamp

AROUND 900 jobs are under threat at telecoms giant Virgin Media, after it announced plans for a major overhaul of the group. Virgin employs around 1,000 at its Eagle Court site in Birmingham and another 40 at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill.

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# Support us plea from traders at market hall

STRUGGLING traders have issued a rallying call for shoppers to support a Black Country market amid concerns over the future of the site.

It comes as the managers said that despite investment in Cradley Heath market, there was 'not enough footfall'.

Action is being taken to improve visitor numbers but the owner doesn't know 'what this year will bring'.

Back in November 2014, London-based investment firm Oyster Properties bought the market for £450,000.

But with six traders quitting before Christmas, it now leaves only 16 stalls in the market hall which has a capacity for 40.

Linked to the market hall are 24 shop units, which are considered to be its former glory.

Market manager Tracy Norton said: 'I've been manager here for around a year and in that time Oyster have pumped nearly £50,000 into the market alone, so that shows you they are doing everything they can to help us grow and increase our businesses.'

"We are just not getting enough footfall through the doors. Whether it's a sign of the times and people are shopping differently, I just don't know."

"When I started there were only five working stalls, and two out of the 19 shops were filled. But today, the hall is over half full and only three out of 19 shops are empty."

## Children can get active at centre

CHILDREN can take part in fun activities at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge during half term.

The Dudley Council-owned facility in Bell Street will be hosting a week of special events from February 15 to 21, including gymnastics and roller disco.

The swimming pool, complete with slides, will be open daily with the roller disco on Monday afternoon, one-hour craft sessions on the Tuesday and trampolining classes on the Tuesday and Friday.

Trampolining sessions are running for children aged five to 15 on February 16 at 10 and 11am and February 19 at 1 and 3pm for beginners and February 16 at 12 and 1pm for those who are advanced. Classes cost £5.80 per session and must be booked.

## Hall is the venue for wedding fair

A WEDDING fair is being held in Himley Hall on Sunday, February 7.

The event, from 10.30am to 4pm, includes bridal fashion shows at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. There will also be displays. Admission is £1.

# Woman jailed after injuring officers



Jailed – Angela Miller

A WOMAN driver who left two police officers with serious injuries after ploughing into them in Tipton has been jailed.

Angela Miller crashed into the officers and a Mercedes they had pulled over for a routine stop check on the A461 Dudley Port.

Her VW Golf GTI then collided with the back of a marked police van which had its blue lights flashing.

Miller was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol but refused to give blood for analysis. She was also taken to hospital after the collision.

The 38-year-old of Newpool Road, Cradley Heath, admitted failing to provide a blood sample and was sentenced to a five-month jail term at Sandwell Magistrates Court. She was also banned from driving for three years and 10 weeks.

The officers, who are both in their 40s and based in Sandwell, are still recovering from their leg injuries following the collision that occurred at 1.35am on January 4 last year.

In the crash the two officers were thrown into the air after the Golf hit the Mercedes and the police van, said West Midlands Police spokeswoman Deborah Edmonds. .

Both officers suffered broken legs and one was knocked unconscious.

Miller was trapped in the wreckage of her car.

The 46-year-old officer has since returned to restricted duties but his 44-year-old colleague continues to be treated for leg injuries and has not yet returned to work.

Pc Phil Robins, of the West Midlands Police regional collision investigation unit, said: "This was the maximum custodial sentence that the judge could give her and in doing so he stated that he wanted this to serve as a deterrent to others."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Parliament hears of Himley dog ban

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood has urged his colleagues in Parliament to hold a debate over the new ban stopping dogs walking taking their animals into parts of Himley Park.

Dudley Council is installing signs in the grounds of Himley Hall to create dog-free zones, to encourage family outings and picnics.

Leader of the House, Chris Grayling MP, said in response: "My honourable Friend has made an important point about his constituency. I am sure that his comments will have been heard by his local authority."

### Council offering help for homeless

DUDLEY Council is helping people who face sleeping rough.

The authority says anyone at risk of sleeping rough, or residents worried about someone at risk, can contact their homeless prevention and response team 24 hours a day. The team will look for emergency housing solutions and work with people to resolve their housing needs. Housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "Housing is fundamental to individual and community wellbeing."

Call Dudley Council Plus on 0300 555 2345.

### Male voice choir help the rangers

A CHOIR from Cradley Heath is performing a concert for the Netherton Ranger Guides in March.

The Cradley Heath Male Voice Choir will sing at the Salvation Army Citadel, on Meredith Street, on March 5. The concert will have an American theme to fit in with the rangers' trip to America later on this year.

The choir will also perform in aid of Stourbridge's Sunfield Children's Home on May 21. For tickets contact David Perry on (01384) 355595.

### Libraries offer to loan out energy monitors

RESIDENTS in Dudley are being offered free use of energy monitors from their local library to keep track of how much energy their appliances use.

The scheme, sponsored by Dudley libraries and the Winter Warmth campaign, is designed to help people save money. The monitors can be borrowed free-of-charge by Dudley libraries members.

For advice and information about Winter Warmth phone (01384) 81086.

### Punjabi star at arena

INDIAN Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh will perform at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on May 21.

Tickets are on general sale from 10am on Friday 1 and are available from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. Tickets are priced from £34.45 to £113.20.

# Speeding killer driver gets 40 months prison

**A MOTORIST who mowed down and killed a pedestrian has been jailed for more than three years.**

Omar Tariq, aged 31, of Denton Road, Stourbridge, had been driving his girlfriend's courtesy car at speeds of up to 93mph shortly before the tragedy.

His estimated speed at the moment of impact was 61mph – more than 20mph over the speed limit – as he braked to avoid hitting 39-year-old Peter Price, who was crossing Hagley Road West at Quinton.

Sixteen members of the victim's family were at Wolverhampton Crown Court for the sentencing on Monday.

Tariq had denied being at the wheel of the Mercedes E250, claiming his girlfriend had been driving but his lie unravelled during police interviews, said Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting. He had driven on for a third of a mile after the accident, in November 2014, before phoning police.

#### Banned

Defending, Mr Paul Mytton, said Tariq had not been penalised for speeding or any other motoring offence in 13 years of driving.

Tariq pleaded guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and not being insured to drive the car. He was jailed for three years and four months and banned from driving for five years.

Judge James Burbidge read testimonies from Tariq's relatives and colleagues, and a letter from the defendant himself setting out his feelings of remorse. He also read impact statements from Mr Price's family and friends.

The judge said: "This is a sad and tragic case. Mr Price's death has been a devastating blow to many." He described Tariq's speed as 'grossly excessive', particularly in a built-up area in a car he was not familiar with, but said there were 'powerful' mitigating circumstances.

"Whether you were seeking to put this sporty-type vehicle through its paces, I do not know. But you were of exemplary character. I accept that this has affected you deeply and that others speak highly of your integrity," said the judge.

Tariq's girlfriend, health and safety officer 23-year-old Parvinder Ubhi, of Jardine Close, Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to permitting use of the vehicle without valid insurance and obstructing police by falsely claiming she was driving. She received a 12-month community order and disqualified from driving for a year.



Wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley has been included in the Debrett's 500 list — for the latest on the Australian Open see Chronicle Sport

**Jordanne is among the most influential**

HALESOWEN wheelchair tennis ace Jordanne Whiley has been named among the nation's most influential people in 2016.

The annual Debrett's 500 list includes a host of personalities across categories, including sport, music, fashion and politics.

Names such as Boris Johnson and Simon Cowell are regularly featured but joining them on the list this year is sportswoman Jordanne.

Aged just 23, she is Britain's most decorated tennis player of all time having won seven grand slams, including the US Open singles title in September last year.

Jordanne, who has brittle bone disease like her Paralympian father Keith, also became Britain's youngest ever national singles champion when she was 14.

She was awarded the MBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

She now has her sights on the singles and doubles events at the Summer Paralympic Games in Rio this summer and on Wimbledon, which is to host a singles event for wheelchair tennis for the first time.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



MUCH has been written and spoken about Jeremy Corbyn's plan for nuclear submarines without nuclear missiles. I like this little analogy from a Scottish website: "I took the blades out of my kitchen knives to see how they'd work. I could still squish tomatoes with the handle but my neighbours called me a \*\*\*\* and are now parking on my driveway."

MEANWHILE, it emerges Mr Corbyn calls his family cat El Gato which is simply Spanish for "the Cat." We have a similar nameless arrangement at Chateau Rhodes where the resident tabby who wandered in seven years ago may be addressed in the course of a day as Puss, Pusskin, The Prince, Killer, Poppet, Chick, Button, Sweetie, Fuzzy Face, Sausage and Mate but is usually known as The Cat.

THE full veil, the medieval symbol of male ownership of women, is alien to British culture and an affront to equality. Like all religious trappings it sends out the divisive message: "I am different from you. I am better than you," which is not a big step from saying: "You are lower than me. You are worth less than me."

At a time when we are at war with people who make their women wear the veil, to see it paraded in British streets is as offensive and threatening as seeing someone strolling through London in 1940 in the black uniform of Hitler's SS. We cannot ban the full veil by law. The essential freedom to wear what we choose is too precious to be extinguished. Yet David Cameron's declaration that he will support hospitals, schools, colleges and other places which insist on the "proper and sensible" measure of faces being visible is a welcome step. As the Tory MP Philip Hollobone puts it: "I don't want to live in a country where a police officer is veiled, where a newsreader is veiled, where a nurse or doctor is veiled." For the sake of freedom we cannot ban the full veil. But in the name of freedom we can despise it.

THINGS on your bathroom shelf. Ever noticed how similar a tube of Oral-B toothpaste is to a tube of Neutrogena hand cream? Deeply unpleasant start to the day.

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# Revived carnival day gets a Viking theme

PLANS for another fun-packed Halesowen carnival are being made for this summer

Hundreds of people turned out for the first carnival in the town for around 30 years last summer. Campaigner Simon Walker helped re-establish the event, bringing crowds flooding back into the town, before stepping down from his role as chairman last month.

New chairman, Councillor Stuart Henley, said that the committee would continue to with the free event for Halesowen. He said: "The support we received last year was overwhelming."

"We need as many volunteers to help with fund raising, on the day and in other ways. So if someone can give us just a few hours, over the next few months, or can take on board a bit more or just help on the day then please get in touch."

"If any company would like to help by sponsoring the event please also get in touch. We need to raise as much as possible to keep this event free for the community for many years to come."

### Norse

This year's carnival theme will be Vikings and will take place on July 2 at Highfield Park.

Norse warrior re-enactment group Jorvik Viking will be there to provide historical entertainment on the day. The group of enthusiasts will have their own camp and display fight reenactments.

Schools throughout the borough will also be asked

to get pupils involved in designing a logo for the front of the carnival's programme.

Kevin Adams, entertainment officer, said he is already working hard to secure a variety of entertainment to suit all tastes on carnival day.

He added: "I think it was such a great day last year and it was achieved with just three people on the committee."

The search will also soon be on to find this year's Halesowen Carnival King and Queen and their attendants. Nominees for the honour must have contributed to the community or overcome some difficulty.

Organisers said that up to 7,000 people attended the revived carnival on July 4 last year, and that was after a late hitch when the venue was switched from Huntingtree Park.

To get involved this year contact [halesowencarnival@gmail.com](mailto:halesowencarnival@gmail.com).

## Emma has brush with fame



Black Country artist Emma Callaghan at work

AN aspiring artist is looking to make her way in the creative world with her first official exhibition next month — at a trendy London gallery.

Emma Callaghan, aged 22, from Tividale, is preparing work for her first official exhibition at The Brick Lane Gallery in Shoreditch, London, from February 16 to 29.

Emma, who studied at Falmouth University, graduated in 2015 with a 2:1 BA Hons Degree in Fine Art.

Her work includes a multi-disciplinary approach to art, exploring such themes as memory, time, environment and historical events.

### Dementia

Some of her work was inspired by her grandmother's dementia.

Emma, who works for West Bromwich Building Society, hopes to make more people aware of dementia, Alzheimer's and depression.

She said: "It's something I've been working towards for a very long time, so to have my work displayed in a gallery, especially in the iconic area of Brick Lane, is fantastic."

Her pieces have sold to art collectors.

## Are dog ban zones just woof justice?

PERMANENT signs will be placed around Himley Hall when banning dogs from certain parts of the attraction — despite angry dog owners signing a petition against the 'dog free zones'.

Council bosses want to cater more for picnicking families by stopping pets using a third of 18th century hall's gardens. The ban, which comes into effect on Monday, will prevent dogs from using open spaces stretching between the Main Gate and West Gate.

Some of the temporary signs put up by the council, warning of the changes, had been removed in recent weeks, but not by council staff.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "We're currently organising for permanent signs to be placed within the park to identify the dog free zone but until then temporary signs are in place."

But parent Simon White, from Sedgley, said he wanted his two children, aged six and eight, to play safely away from dog mess.

"Everywhere we go there is dog faeces and owners who insist their dog is not a problem and is okay to be off its lead and will not bite," he said. "We'd like to thank Dudley Council for taking this action, which although will not be enforced at least is one small step in the right direction."

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# Super-council will need more powers and extra cash – MP

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called on the Chancellor to give 'greater powers and more funding' to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Labour MP Mr Austin urged George Osborne to give the WMCA more freedom over job creation, housing, transport and training.

Last year's devolution deal signed off by Mr Osborne paved the way for the WMCA, which could lead to more than £1bn of Government investment and a metro mayor.

## Sweet grant going to fund extra training

A GROUP in Quarry Bank helping those who have experienced domestic abuse is celebrating after receiving a £300 donation from the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund.

Survivors of Domestic Abuse (SODA) offer online support to both men and women.

The group was originally set-up as a Facebook page by Sam Billingham, Group founder Sam said: "We are really keen to extend our services to offer face-to-face help for victims."

"This donation from the Galaxy Hot Chocolate Fund will be part payment toward a training course to enable me to gain the required qualification to travel around the country offering professional workshops."

Galaxy Hot Chocolate helps community groups and charities across the UK and Ireland by donating cash awards of up to £300. Applications can be made on the Galaxy Hot Chocolate website www.galaxyhotchocolate.com

Wordsley Councillor Paul Brothwood said: "Local people need to know the downsides of handing powers over to a metro mayor and giving more power to a cash-strapped Birmingham."



# Nazis didn't hand out free meal wristbands

LYNX House is a service for asylum seekers in Cardiff. Among many things, it provides free food for anybody who wears a wristband to prove they are entitled to it. Or at least it was until this week.

Now you might think that is not a bad arrangement. In fact, it would not entirely surprise me if a few cheeky chappies of the Benefits Street persuasion started rummaging around their drawers for that old Alton Towers wristband in the hope of getting a bit of free grub.

But incredibly, the policy has been abandoned after some of the asylum seekers complained it was undignified. The Welsh Refugee Council compared it to the branding of Jews in Nazi Germany. Similar claims were made last week, when it emerged a property company in Middlesbrough had been putting up asylum seekers in houses which had red doors.

Yesterday marked National Holocaust Memorial Day, when Britain remembers the millions of Jews, and other groups, who suffered unimaginable persecution in Hitler's Germany. Some perished in the gas chambers. Others died squashed slave labour camps. Female victims had their hair hacked off to make socks for the German Army. Minor breaches of camp rules were punished in ways probably not appropriate to describe here.

I know this because I was privileged to visit Auschwitz last year, and over the years I have met several survivors who have lived through things I cannot begin to understand.

The Nazis didn't offer their victims rent-free terraced houses with shiny red doors. And the yellow stars worn by Hitler's victims did not entitle them to a free buffet.

The horrors of what I saw at Auschwitz will never leave me. And I can't begin to tell you how angry I feel when I hear people comparing a red front door or a wristband for free nosh to what those people went through.

□ □ □

COUNCIL bigwigs in east London have come up with the bonzer idea to clean up their parks. Patrols are being employed to pick up the dog-doings, and take them away for analysis. A team of experts will prod about with the, ahem, ingredients of the poop and then check them against a dog-doings DNA database in an attempt to trace the owner. Now there's an interesting career for somebody.

One does wonder, though, whether Big Baz the skinhead will have taken his borderline legal cross-bred pit bull down to the vet's to be registered. Still, I'm sure the little old lady who can't bend down to pick it up will be fined.

All this at a time of supposed austerity. But there's still money for a dog poo database. And which area of London is carrying out this exciting experiment? Barking. Says it all really.



<b>5 COMANCHE CHIEFTAIN (CAN) (20) 035560</b>
B g Broken Vow (USA) - Platinum Preferred (CAN)
Ferrybank Properties Limited
Steve Di Iorio
TIMEFORMVIEW Tenth of 11 in handicap at Nottingham (10.2f, good to soft, 40 Checkpieces on 1st time).
<b>6 YULONG XIONGBA (IRE) (15) 20-6006</b>
B g Kodiak - Moon Legend (USA)
Owners Group 006
Rockfield Farm
TIMEFORMVIEW Sixth of 11 in handicap at Pontefract (8f, good to soft, 40 season, and new yard may well get more out of him from reduced mark).
<b>7 INVINCIBLE WISH (IRE) (35) 505602 C</b>
B g Vale of York (IRE) - Moonlight Wish (IRE)
Michael & Lesley Wilkes
Cyril Ryan
TIMEFORMVIEW Course winner 33/1, second of 9 in handicap at Chepstow (hood on 1st time). Needs to prove he can build on that now.

Yulong Xiongba makes the racecard at Wolverhampton



A close up of the four-year-old



Mark Shipp with previous trainer Roger Charlton

# A racing certainty

You don't need to be rich and famous to take ownership of a racehorse. **MARK SHIPP**, who is living the dream, explains

## TRADITIONALLY a pastime for the elite, horse racing is not called 'the sport of kings' for nothing.

That said, there is an affordable way to rub shoulders with the rich oil barons and businessmen. Welcome to the world of the Owners Group.

The group gives everyday folks, like myself, the chance to experience the world of the turf and to have a stake in a thoroughbred. Quite like mega-rich Manchester City playing a non-league team full of window-fitters, mechanics and postmen in the FA Cup, the Owners Group is made up of people from all walks of life, my Asda shop assistant other half among them.

True, our horse Yulong Xiongba (pronounced you-long shawn(g) ba) hasn't quite hit the heights on the track. But the excitement of just telling people 'that's our horse' is something money cannot buy. Put but the Champagne on ice... he's finished third – both times at Wolverhampton – and then followed that up with a second.

### Dictated

As a year's membership is less than it costs to keep a car on the road, what is there to lose? Even if our share probably only equates to a toenail on its hind leg – not that he's divvied up that way.

The cost actually depends on the training fees dictated by the yard at which the horse is based. Yulong had been stabled by Derby-winning trainer Roger Charlton near Chippenham in Wiltshire, but has since switched to the Malton, north Yorkshire yard of Julie Camacho. A smaller string means the training costs aren't as high, so a second year of membership is only half the price of what it was the first time round. Bargain.

So what can you expect for your money? Not



Yulong Xiongba, carrying the Owners Group silks, in action on the track

to get rich, unfortunately, though that doesn't stop us dreaming. "This time next year..." as that great philosopher Del Boy Trotter once said.

A regular newsletter informs all syndicate holders what the Owners Group horses are up to and there are text and email updates of when a horse is running or declared to do so. That in turn gives owners the chance to claim a free badge to see their horse race.

There's even merchandise in the form of souvenir pictures and mugs (that's the drinking vessel, not us gullible punters), while stable visits are also offered.

My friend Andy, a fellow Yulong owner, and I took up the offer to see the horse 'at home'. He was well-behaved that day, but unfortunately that has not always translated itself to the course. A seven furlong winner in Ireland as a two-year-old when trained by former Der-

by-winning jockey Johnny Murtagh, we had high hopes Yulong would progress. But more of that later.

My involvement began when my other half spotted a newspaper advert for the Owners Group, looking for shareholders for Champagne Express, a jumper trained by Nicky Henderson – an ideal Christmas present she thought, knowing of my love for the sport.

"But I want us to experience it together," I said. And so our journey began. Shares in Champagne Express were gone when we applied. So Yulong it was. Meanwhile, our first choice won his first race, bolting up at Chepstow to earn nearly £2,000 in prize money.

Another Owners Group horse, Sound Investment, has lived up to its name, finishing first past the post on three occasions, racking up around £80,000 in win and place earnings in the process, adding to that with a third

place finish in the prestigious Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham. And Yulong? His name means clever person, but he hasn't been too intelligent on the course. His two third-place finishes and one second are his best efforts from his six outings this year. But, like a football team showing steady year-on-year improvement, we know a win is just around the corner.

Spare a thought, though, for the owners of Spirit of Wedze who, after 13 races, have yet to see their horse get its head in front.

Yulong got off to an inauspicious start when he refused to go in the stalls and unseated his rider on his seasonal bow at Lingfield.

Subsequent races saw him down the field at Windsor and Kempton. He was even scratched on the morning of a race because he had a 'dirty nose' or 'having a bit of a cold'.

### Experience

But this ownership lark is nothing to be sniffed at. Yulong has thrived following a change of surroundings. He was only just touched off when third at Dunstall Park – which meant the three of us, myself, my other half and mate, could all witness it. And we were also there when it followed up with another third placed finish, enjoying the ultimate owners' experience.

The feeling was indescribable, collecting an owners' badge, meeting other shareholders and the trainer's husband, cheering Yulong on then watching him parade around the unsaddling enclosure. The joy was unbridled, you could say.

Listening to the trainer's husband Steve Brown is an absolute pleasure. So knowledgeable about his field, he talks the owners through Yulong's races, gives the lowdown on future plans and informs us all how the horse is doing at home. All are convinced the right race will come along and a win is just around the corner. But should that not happen, it's been fun watching him try.

We haven't quite got another Frankel on our hands but as my mate put it, 'we are living the Yulong dream'.

• Owners Group still has shares in a number of horses. Visit [www.ownergroup.co.uk](http://www.ownergroup.co.uk) or call 01380 811888 for more details. Pictures courtesy of the Owners Group.

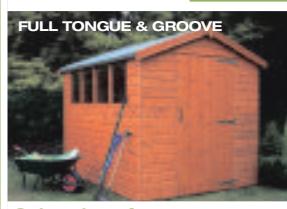
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# Dog owners bite back over Himley ban

IT is obvious that if A Blake needs someone to explain to him why there has been so much coverage on the 'dog ban' then his letter (Letters to the Editor, January 21) is of no value other than to be controversial or a need to see his name in the paper.

If I may I will enlighten him.

The main reason is that a vast number of people who use Himley Hall are dog owners who use the grounds on a

regular basis, most of whom are retired or infirm, and find the area proposed as 'dog free' the easiest option.

I might add that we use Himley seven days per week, 52 weeks of the year, thus contributing a huge amount of revenue through our yearly parking fees or daily parking fees, as opposed to picnickers who use the park once or twice a year when the sun shines.

There already exists a picnic area adjacent to the golf cafe that is ideal for them, offering hot or cold drinks and snacks.

Children also like to be around the

pool feeding the ducks and geese, which brings in to question the real reason for the proposed 'picnic area'.

The dog owners would, with respect, like to know how they intend to marshal the proposed area?

Will caravans still be allowed to park there along with the dogs they own?

Will the area still be used as a overflow car park in the case of certain events being held at the park, thus preventing picnickers from accessing the area?

D WHITE  
Dudley

## Appalled by faulty car lights

IN addition to drivers who do not switch their lights on early at dusk and in inclement weather, I am appalled by the large number of vehicles with deficient lights.

Drivers need to check their lights regularly and rectify defective ones.

The only other check which occurs is the MOT test which takes place only annually and, in the case of new vehicles, only after the first three years.

In the meantime, the police should be more active by setting up roadside spot checks not with a view to prosecuting but, instead, requiring defects to be rectified within a short specified period. This would seem to be more sensible than holding speed checks and prosecuting drivers who exceed the speed limit by a relatively small margin.

Priority given to this issue is necessary because of long hours of darkness and bad visibility at this time of year.

**D PARISH**  
Rowley Regis

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

### EMAIL

dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

*Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.*

## True FA Cup spirit is in lower leagues

THE Premiership now seem to be a law unto themselves in British football. Playing a fixture list in the week following an FA Cup round has given managers just the excuse they need to field weakened teams in what has been known as one of the world's most famous knockout cup competitions.

In contrast non-league clubs treat the FA Cup with the respect it deserves. Starting way back in August, they attempt to battle through the early rounds and generate a bit of cup glory and the prize money that goes with it.

Just take a look at the achievement of Stourbridge FC this season when they reached the second round, and created unprecedented levels of interest in the area with sell out games against Kidderminster and Eastleigh. That's why it is so sad that some Premiership managers don't want to be bothered.

Hard pressed Division One and Two clubs can benefit financially from a good cup run.

The third round produced some exciting games, let's hope the next round does the same, with supporters filling the grounds to show just how important the FA Cup is to English and Welsh football — it's part of our heritage.

## Migrants history is repeating

HISTORY constantly repeats itself as we simply find new ways to make old mistakes.

Many people insist that mass immigration is good for the economy, as though this excuses the inevitable damage to the environment, national infrastructure and the host population.

Therefore, it is all the more astonishing to hear of the events in Cologne on New Year's Eve. Hundreds of women sexually assaulted by a gang of about a thousand men of 'North African or Arabic appearance' while the police did nothing. Human rights groups believed that asylum seekers must not be blamed.

The main beneficiaries of mass immigration are unscrupulous employers who exploit migrants as cheap labour. Do we want to pander to their greed and the flawed agenda of an increasingly overbearing 'Politically Correct' (PC) brigade?

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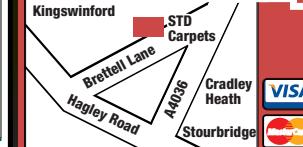
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# 8 Parking fees at Sandwell Valley look set to come in

COUNCIL bosses look set to press ahead with controversial plans to introduce parking charges at Sandwell Valley Country Park, despite dozens of objections to the scheme.

A petition has been signed by 121 people opposing the scheme and the council said it had received '56 separate reasons for objection' from aggrieved members of the public – but still aims to bring in the charges. Parking has always been free at the country park previously.

However, visitors will find themselves paying from 40p for an hour to £2 if they stay for more than four hours in the future. Around 200,000 cars park at the site each year.

A report written for the highways meeting today, Thursday, states: "No action [should] be taken in response to the objections received in relation to the introduction of parking charges in Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich."

Cabinet member Councillor Maria Crompton said the meeting will give opponents a chance to air their views and some changes to the proposals could still be made.

## Adjustments

She said: "We're having the meeting so people can come along and raise their objections, and that may colour what we do or change things. We could make adjustments to times and things like that, but we can't make a decision unless we have the meeting and people share their views."

"Not everyone will be happy but we want to make sure people know we have listened to them and done the best we can. Unfortunately in these austere times the council needs money or some services will struggle. An awful lot of work needs to be done at Sandwell Valley, and without more money we won't be able to do that."

"We've now been open for 25 years, and want to thank our customers for making the store such a success." Celebrations are taking place until Sunday.

IKEA Birmingham is celebrating its 25th birthday with a week full of fun, games and activities.

DJ Danny will take to the decks to entertain customers entering the store, before they will be treated to balloon modelling, face painting and a drinks reception.

Free meals will be awarded to anyone who arrives in fancy dress, before the store hosts a puppet show for children tomorrow, Friday, evening.

A photo booth has been installed in the store with all Ikea family members to take home a birthday photo.

Debbie Hughes, the Wednesbury store manager, said: "In the last quarter of a century, Ikea has grown as a company in the UK and become an integral part of many people's lives."

"We've now been open for 25 years, and want to thank our customers for making the store such a success." Celebrations are taking place until Sunday.

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## Bullring owners buy Grand Central



Birmingham's new Grand Central shopping centre above New Street Station has been bought for a massive £335 million

BIRMINGHAM'S new Grand Central shopping centre has been bought by the owners of the city's Bullring for a massive £335 million – with bosses hailing it as a 'highly-prized trophy'.

Property group Hammerson has exchanged contracts with Birmingham City Council for the landmark development, which opened in September above the redeveloped New Street Station.

As well as giving Hammerson a major stake in the city's two premier shopping developments, the deal will

provide a valuable cash injection for the council, which has been struggling in the face of widespread cuts.

Hammerson, which runs the Bullring and owns 50 per cent of it, says it is also in advanced discussions with an un-named 'existing joint venture partner' on other assets about entering into a 50:50 joint venture for the future ownership of Grand Central.

It is thought that unnamed partner is Network Rail, which had been offering the city council £200 million to become the sole owner of the the

Grand Central shopping centre, which sits above the revamped Birmingham New Street station.

Hammerson chief executive David Atkins said: "The acquisition of Grand Central, a highly-prized trophy asset in the UK's second city, is fully aligned with Hammerson's strategy of owning top-performing retail destinations in prime locations. We are strong supporters of the future of Birmingham and this acquisition provides us with additional exposure to the city's fast growing economy."

## Go-ahead for homes at old sports ground

HOMES will be built on the site of a once-famous sports ground in the Black Country after a developer was given the go-ahead by councillors, despite concerns of people living nearby.

Morris Homes has won its fight to put four three-storey houses on the former Accles and Pollock Sports Ground in Brades Road, Oldbury. Councillors approved the plans after a site visit eased fears over parking and road safety.

Two parking spaces will be provided at each house but neighbours insisted that was not enough and would lead to people parking on an congested road. They also raised fears about homes being built on a bend and believe privacy may be infringed.

A 14ft fence would be put up next to the houses and it is felt this will impact on views from current homes.

However, Councillor Barbara Price, who sits on the planning committee, said: "Having seen the development, there was no reason why it should be turned down.

"Highways didn't raise any issues at all."

## New chief appointed for business group

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has appointed Keith Bryan as their new chief executive.

After qualifying as an accountant whilst in the engineering industry, Mr Bryan joined the Tarmac Group and eventually became managing director of the £350 million building materials business and a member of the Tarmac Group Executive Committee.

Since leaving Tarmac, Mr Bryan was a non-executive director at New Cross Hospital from 2005 to 2012, where he was the chair of the audit, charities, finance and performance committees and acted as chairman for two spells.

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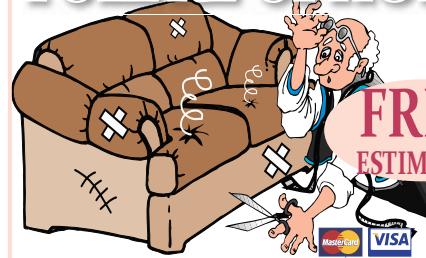
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## Man jailed for raping girl, 13

A MAN who repeatedly raped an underage girl has been jailed for 19 years.

Darius Majchrzak, who has links to Dudley and West Bromwich, was also convicted of making indecent images of a child.

The 43-year-old was found guilty of 12 counts of rape and three counts of making indecent images of a child at Birmingham Crown Court. Eight of the rape charges related to a child under the age of 13.

The offences, which took place between 2006 and 2012, came to light as police were investigating an unrelated matter.

West Midlands Police were able to convict him of four of the attacks outside of the UK.

Majchrzak, of no fixed address, denied all of the offences against the victim but was convicted after a trial.

Detective Inspector Sarah Booth, from the child abuse investigation team, said: "These were really serious offences and at no point did he take any responsibility for his crimes."

# Hundreds are victims of dog attacks across Black Country

**DOG and animal attacks have seen 336 people suffer bite wounds in the past two years in the Black Country, including at least 21 youngsters under three years old.**

And 161 of those people bitten were taken to hospital, figures released by the West Midlands Ambulance Service reveal.

The figures come after it was revealed dog attacks have soared 76 per cent in the UK over the past

decade, according to Health and Social Care Information Centre statistics.

Sandwell and West Birmingham was the worst hit area, with 108 attacks registered.

### Baby

Of those, one victim was a baby, six were infants, 11 were children and 61 were adults.

In Dudley, 85 people were attacked, including five infants, 11 children and 61 adults.

There have been 73 Walsall victims, including one infant, 17 children and 46 adults, while in

Wolverhampton, 70 people were bitten, including two babies, six infants as well as seven children and 46 adults. Ages were not given for 46 of those bitten in the Black Country.

Victims included a two-year-old and her sister, who were bitten by an Akita/Husky crossbreed, in Netherton in July last year.

A firefighter on duty was bitten when helping put out a garden fire at a house in Tividale last August. He was bitten by a Japanese Akita.

An ambulance spokesman said: "If someone suffers an animal bite we would encourage them to wash

out the wound with cold running water. The affected area should then have a clean dressing applied.

"If you feel the wound needs medical attention then please either call NHS 111 for advice or visit your local walk in centre.

"If the wound does not stop bleeding after direct pressure being applied for a few minutes, then the patient should make their way to their local A&E department. If you feel the animal bite is life threatening then please call 999 immediately."

## Driver trapped after car rolls

THREE people were injured — and one of them was trapped for half an hour — after a two-car crash near Himley Cricket Club. A collision at just after 6pm on Friday saw one of the cars roll over.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "The driver of the car that rolled over, a man believed to be in his 40s, had suffered multiple lacerations in the crash and also a reduced level of consciousness. The man received emergency treatment at the scene from medics and with the assistance of the fire service was removed from the vehicle. He was trapped for around 30 minutes. The man was transferred by ambulance to Russells Hall Hospital for further treatment."

A woman passenger had cuts to her hands and the man driving the other vehicle received treatment for chest and wrist injuries.

## Painting captures comedy characters



The Fizzogs, Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Sue Hawkins, with the painting of them in their granny guise

BLACK Country comedy trio The Fizzogs said thank you to their backers at a special event in The Old Glasshouse pub in Dudley.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Walther joined representatives from Holden's Brewery, C & D Consultancy and Black Country Kitchens at the event hosted by Fizzogs Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls.

Deb said: "It was a fantastic chance to network as well as say thank you to everyone who has helped us the past year."

Last year the comedienne, who gained fame with their dancing grannies sketch, won rave reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and sold out a show at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre. Their pantomime, 'Freezin'', a Black Country spoof of Disney's Frozen, is currently on tour.

The trio have also been immortalised in art by chairman of the Dudley Society of Artists, Keith Turley. Deb added: "To save us from just sticking it in the office, we have decided to put it in different locations around the Black Country — at the minute it is in the mayor's parlour."

## University involved in start-up schemes

WOULD-BE entrepreneurs are being offered fixed-rate loans in a scheme launched by the University of Wolverhampton. The university has teamed up with Virgin StartUp to deliver the Government-funded scheme.

It is aimed at helping Black Country people put their business ideas into practice, encouraging entrepreneurship and promoting economic growth.

Businesspeople receive a unique offering of mentoring, finance, practical advice and support.

Tony Collins, non-executive director at Virgin StartUp, said: "We're delighted to be working with the University of Wolverhampton to help local entrepreneurs get their business ideas off the ground, not only financially but by providing an invaluable network of advice and support."

For information about Virgin StartUp loans, email Rose Judeh-Elwell at r.judeh-elwell@wlv.ac.uk or go to www.wlv.ac.uk/virginstartup

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Howells recently unveiled their new Flat Glass Skylight, which is unrivalled in its quality and performance and has been specifically designed to bring as much natural daylight into a building as possible without intrusive framing being visible from beneath.

The low profile, stylish Skylight is thermally broken for outstanding performance and can be fitted on flat or pitched roofs.

Offering maximum natural light exposure the Flat Skylight can be installed either on a builder's kerb on a flat roof at 4 degrees up to a slope of 15 degrees although 4 degrees is recommended. The Skylight is simple to install and can be powder coated to: RAL 9910 Satin bright White on visible internal surfaces and RAL 7021 Matt dark Grey for external surfaces.

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Howell's roof lights are a stylish and practical addition to any building project

offer a wide range of solutions. Howells' own patented system is made from extruded aluminium alloy complying with BS1474 designation 6063T6 ancillary components such as flashing, closures weathering and gutters, can be provided from preformed aluminium alloy to BS1470.

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ufactured at their factory in Cradley Heath and shipped to sites by the firm's own transport. Onsite sales, estimating, technical and contracts departments are available to offer support and all customers a bespoke service. Most orders can be accommodated within an eight-week lead time from approval of drawings.

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# Gazing back at indie guitar rock

## ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

WEDGED between the Madchester excess of Baggy and the birth of Brit Pop, the indie rock music scene of the late 1980s and early 90s hasn't been given its due.

Lumped together under the rather pejorative term 'shoegaze', this movement saw bands turning to the likes of The Velvet Underground, Echo & The Bunnymen, Siouxsie & The Banshees and scene-setters The Jesus & Mary Chain for inspiration. It remains a highly influential era for today's rock scene.

It could be argued that these bands, though few of them became famous names, did more to mould the current indie rock scene than the American grunge rockers who were higher profile at the time.

A handsome new various artists five-disc boxed set from Cherry Red Records, *Still In A Dream: A Story Of Shoegaze (1988...1995)*, sets the record straight. It comes in the form of a hardback book with details on all the bands and essays on shoegaze from UK and American perspectives.

The term shoegaze covers a broad spectrum but at its most recognisable it combined swirling guitars with submerged vocals, as typified here by Swervedriver, Slowdive and Pale Saints. Many of the bands were on such labels as 4AD, Creation and Hut, and other leading lights included Ride, Lush, Curve, The House of Love, and Drugstore.

Some can be seen as psychedelic and drone rockers, including the whole space rock sub-genre created by Spacemen 3 and their spin-offs including Sonic Boom, Darkside, Spectrum and the still active Spiritualized.



Birmingham shoegazers Sweet Jesus hit the scene with Phonefreak Honey in 1992

Other bands included on this 77-track package that are still active (or re-activated) include The Boo Radleys, Flaming Lips and Mercury Rev.

Although the scene was largely Thames Valley based, there are some West Midlands bands featured. These include Birmingham outfits Drop (with Mirrored) and Sweet Jesus (with Phonefreak Honey), plus Coventry's Adorable (Sunshine Smile).

Shoegaze went on to influence bands across the planet, judging by the obscure groups also included from Japan, New Zealand, Sweden and across north America.

This set is not just an exercise in nostalgia, it can be recommended to indie rock fans of all ages.

The James Taylor Quartet are best known for stomping Hammond organ instrumentals, that have made them firm favourites on the Acid Jazz and Mod music scenes. On the Rochester Mass the quartet join forces with the 40-strong Rochester Cathedral Choir in an attempt to blend a Latin-sung choral mass with jazz/funk elements.

It sounds like a recipe for disaster

but, although some church music purists may not agree, I think it works rather brilliantly. The sacred quality of the voices are enhanced by the thoughtful jazz-settings, especially the excellent work by flautist Gareth Lockrane.

Recorded in just one day, and dedicated by James Taylor to his late father Clive, the Rochester Mass reaches its sublime peak with Gloria.

Californian sunshine pop band Harpers Bizzare are best known for their version of Simon & Garfunkel's The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feelin' Groovy). *The Complete Singles Collection (1965-1970)*, which is mostly mono, features that swinging 60s favourite along with their version of Come To The Sunshine, the Van Dykes Parks song which heralded the summer of love, and 24 other tracks.

If I've Been Dreaming, when they were The Tikis, reveals a strong Beatles influence, before they developed a softer, harmonious sound. But for every 60s pop gem there are at least a couple of old fashioned mom and pop standards or show tunes. More barber shop than Beach Boys.



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# Strictly speaking this was best yet

## REVIEW

By Sue Attwater

IT'S easy to sum up the Strictly Come Dancing tour. Just one word, three syllables - A-MAZ-ING!

The show recently was named as the best entertainment programme in the National TV awards and the follow-up tour certainly gets my vote as the best to date.

The dancing, settings and effects were all superb – just one quibble. Why when the ‘Magnificent Seven’ are strutting their stuff do they have to have professional dancers on the stage performing with them. Good as the pros are it is the celebrities we are there to watch.

### Close

The marks from the judges were close throughout but it was the current champion The Wanted's Jay McGuiness dancing with Aliona Vilani – who recently announced she was leaving the TV show – who again picked up the glitter ball on the first night of the tour at Birmingham's packed Barclaycard Arena.

He and Countryfile's Anita Rani and professional partner Gleb Savchenko were neck and neck at the end but Jay clinched it. His jive dance from the Movie Week was sensational and had the audience cheering and stamping their feet.

Gleb did get his shirt off a few times to win fans over. Certainly judges Craig Revel Horwood and Bruno Tonioli were impressed. They were joined, of course, by head judge Len Goodman who admitted that he really missed going on the tour last year. Compre-



Mel Giedroyc, on top of the cake, surrounded by the Strictly crew

was Mel Giedroyc who joked with the celebrities after each dance leading to one interesting revelation. Jay, when asked where he kept the glitter ball, said it had pride of place – in his twin brother's toilet. Mel also persuaded Len to give her a quick tango lesson while the votes were being counted. Hilarious!

The phone votes by the audience come after the second dances and 10% of each call goes to Sport Relief.

Referring to the tour as the Great British Dance Off – instead of her usual Bake-Off role – she had appeared at the start of the show from a giant cake, she was obviously loving her role. Although I am not sure why she had to keep referring to her prompt cards so often.

The rest of the line-up included this year's TV finalist actress Georgia May Foote dancing with new recruit Giovanni Pernice. Known as team GG they made the perfect couple – on and off stage from what it is reported.

Call the Midwife Star Helen George dancing with Aljaz Skorjanec scored highly with their lovely Viennese

Waltz and Ainsley Harriott, with Karen Clifton instead of his regular partner Natalie Lowe, who had to pull out through illness, may not have had perfect technique but certainly kept the judges and audience amused.

Previous strong contenders from earlier TV shows were The Saturdays' singer Frankie Bridge who could not go on the tour last year as she was pregnant. She danced with Kevin Clifton who was obviously impressed with how much she had remembered.

### Shake

Last, but not least, was EastEnders' Jake Wood. He danced with Janette Manrara and he certainly could still 'shake his booty'.

The judges, referred to by Mel as the good, the bad and the ugly – needless to say who she meant, marked generously with 10 for many dances apart from Craig who held on to his 10 until the end giving it to Jay for his jive.

And I am sure the audience vote for the tour would also be a resounding 10!

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**'The company is owned and run by tradesmen, meaning work is carried out professionally and to a high standard'**

So Christmas is over and Auld Lang Syne is a distant memory.

Many of you will have had family and friends visiting and stopping over during the holiday period and your bathroom and en suite rooms will have turned into one of the busiest spaces in the house, yet very often these rooms are the most neglected and overlooked.

If this is true of your bathroom, you wouldn't have been the first to have worried about what impression this room left on your guests.

## Ideas

Your Choice Bathrooms is fast becoming one of the leading bathroom companies in the West Midlands, with showrooms in Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, and Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

"Now is the time to resolve to not be in that position again," says director of Your Choice Bathrooms, Darren Fillingham.

"Whether you are considering refurbishing a tired and dated bathroom or would like to go for a completely new look, there has never been a better time, because in addition to helping with ideas and inspiration, we can offer you some great deals at this time of year."

"Your bathroom is the place where most of us start our busy days, getting ready for work or other activities.



Your Choice Bathrooms' showroom in Chaterfield Drive, Kingswinford

"When you walk in thinking about the day ahead, you don't want to be surrounded by tired fixtures and fittings. We want you to choose Your Choice Bathrooms to help you."

Darren continued: "What has always set us apart is that the company is owned and run by tradesmen, meaning that work is carried out professionally and to a high standard, and this has always been the key to our success."

Both showrooms are open daily and you can view a comprehensive range of individual styles from traditional to more contemporary names such as Eastbrook, Streamline,

Aqualine and Batterly. Once you've had a good look around, the company's friendly and welcoming staff will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and advise when choosing the style of bathroom that suits you at a price that is within your budget.

A free and friendly, no-obligation quotation is always available in your home and if you decide to go ahead, the company's team of skilled fitters is able to take your ideas and designs and turn them into reality.

The team works hard to keep bathroom prices as low as possible without compromising on quality, and aims to keep within the budget of retired, disabled and working families who make up 90 per cent of their customers.

Resolve to make 2016 the year you get the bathroom you can be proud of and pay Your Choice Bathrooms a visit.

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Business Name:

Your Choice Bathrooms

### Address:

Unit 4 Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 7SH and Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, WV11 1TW.

### Phone Numbers:

01384 287222 (Kingswinford)  
01902 861908 (Wednesfield)

### Website:

[www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk](http://www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk)

### Key areas of activity/sectors:

Specialists in bathroom refurbishment

### Mission Statement:

Your Choice for a better bathroom – we want your choice to be us



Darren Fillingham, director of Your Choice



JANUARY &  
FEBRUARY  
FITTING DATES  
NOW BEING  
RESERVED

# YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS



YOUR CHOICE...

FOR A BETTER BATHROOM

THE LOCAL SPECIALIST IN BATHROOM REFURBISHMENT  
We want YOUR CHOICE to be us.

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90x90 Quadrant Cubicle  
with low level tray  
15 SQM Wall Tiles  
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We will remove the Bath  
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£2150.00**

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

We will supply  
and fit a luxury chrome  
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sold in January

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& DISABLED  
CUSTOMERS**

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Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 7SH

**01384 287222**

Open 9am - 5pm 6 days a week

Showroom also at: Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, WV11 1TW. 01902 861908





Michelle Hims of Care Wish, which provides supported living for those living independently



From left, Teresa McDonalds, Liz Poole, Chris McManus and Michelle Hims of Care Wish, Halesowen Road, Old Hill



Teresa McDonalds – Care Wish can provide round-the-clock care for help when ever you need it

# Independent living that gives you peace of mind

**FAMILY-RUN business, Care Wish, provides the highest quality care for you or that person who is important to you.**

Providing care correctly is a specialist business and Care Wish is rated by the Care Quality Commission, the country's regulatory body very highly indeed.

Christine McManus, the company's founder and managing director, told the Express and Star that Care Wish met and exceeded many of the national standards but most of all it understood what people want from a professional care provider.

Christine said: "It's about dignity and respect and recognizing that no matter what your age or level of need you should always expect to be involved in your care decisions and allowed to maximize your independence wherever you can."

Focused

Care Wish provides the widest range of community-based services that are focused on keeping people safe and in their own homes for as long as possible.

They are specialists in home care and support people whose requirement can be everything from 24-hour care to just a pop-in.

Christine added: "Care Wish is about the people we care for and we offer a truly per-

son-centred service where those who use our service sit at the very centre of what we do."

"All of our staff are trained to provide care and support to people with a range of conditions. We support older people and those with Alzheimer's and Dementia."

"We support people with learning disabilities, mental ill health and physical and sensory impairment."

Vulnerable

"We can support anyone who due to ill health is vulnerable and needs some degree of assistance."

Care Wish services include a home care service, 24-hour live-in care, respite and night sits and supported living.

Michelle Hims, the registered manager and family member said: "We aim to include all community-based services."

## Supported

"At Care Wish we fully support the idea that people live better and longer when they are in their own homes and close to the things and the people that mean something to them."

Care Wish recently opened their new supported living house in Oldbury. Supported living extends care and support at home to people who, often due to their disability, would not otherwise be able to provide their own accommodation.

**'Care Wish is about the people we care for and we offer a truly person-centred service where those who use our service sit at the very centre of what we do.'**

Michelle has also managed residential care homes and has a wide knowledge of the various client groups and added: "This is a natural extension to supporting people in their own homes."

"We support people with a disability and who are vulnerable to live in small group house where they have the security of being a tenant, the safety of 24-hour care and support, the enjoyment of living with people they like and the chance to maximize their independence, choice and control."

Four steps to making a care wish – choos-

ing to have care is a big decision, but the first choice has already been made and that is that people will have a better quality of life in their own homes than in an institutional setting.

Care Wish understands fully that the decision to invite a stranger into your home is a difficult one so they have made it easier for you.

Step 1: A Care Wish team member will ask you some questions about what you and your family will want to achieve.

This is not always as easy as it seems but through years of experience they will be able to set out a plan that is about the individual and what they want and not about what Care Wish do.

Step 2: A senior carer will meet with individuals, refine the plan and have a look at the home. Some practical recommendations may be made based on knowledge and experience and all paperwork and technology will be explained.

The team is meticulous in ensuring that everything can be audited and checked.

Step 3: Care Wish will select a carer that will suit you.

Step 4: The carer will be introduced and on the initial visit they will be accompanied by the same senior who first visited so that proper introductions can be made.

## BUSINESS PROFILE



**Company name:**  
Care Wish

**Address:**  
136 Halesowen Road,  
Cradley Heath,  
B64 5LP

**Telephone:**  
0121 421 3733

**Website:**  
[www.carewish.co.uk](http://www.carewish.co.uk)

**Email:**  
[info@carewish.co.uk](mailto:info@carewish.co.uk)



CARE WE PROMOTE  
INDEPENDENCE BY  
SUPPORTING YOU AT  
HOME

A photograph of an elderly man and woman smiling warmly at the camera. The man is in the foreground, and the woman is behind him, her arm around his shoulder. They appear to be in a home setting.

*Providers of Care and Support for all Adults*

TELEPHONE: 01384 566 945 OR 0121 421 3733

WEB: [WWW.CAREWISH.CO.UK](http://WWW.CAREWISH.CO.UK)

# Comfy bed not just a dream

SINCE we spend roughly a third of our lives sleeping, it's crucial that we choose the perfect bed and a long-established Brierley Hill business has the passion and expertise to help you do just that.

In fact, Dreamland Bedding Centre has been matching customers with perfect beds for the past 40 years and has established an excellent reputation for the quality of its service and products.

The family business was founded in 1976 by Mike Brown, who is such a familiar face in the local community that he is known as Mike the Bed.

The team of experienced staff is headed by manageress Carol Stock, who has been part of the Dreamland family since the beginning.

## Spacious

Located in Mill Street, the spacious store has undergone expansion over the years and the showroom displays top quality beds and mattresses from famous brands including Silentnight, Slumberland, Sealy and many more.

Dreamland is proud to be National Bed Federation member stockists which means all its beds are rigorously tested for your peace of mind.

Its impressive range includes memory foam, pocket sprung, orthopaedic mattresses, beds with storage and much more.

This is backed up by a large warehouse containing hundreds of beds and mattresses, meaning your chosen product can be delivered swiftly.

"Making sure customers get the right bed at the right price was our objective from day one and it has continued to this day," said Mike.

Mike is justifiably proud of the outstanding customer service offered by his dedicated staff,



Plenty of parking at Dreamland Bedding, in Mill Street, Brierley Hill



Room to browse – so much choice on offer in the vast showroom

who focus on meeting individual needs to ensure that quality, service and value are maintained at all times.

In Dreamland's unhurried and relaxing atmosphere, friendly advisers are always happy to help you towards a great night's sleep.

This includes customers with health problems, for whom it is even more important to choose the right bed.

## Easier

"Some people do come to us in pain and we want to make their lives more comfortable," said Mike.

Dreamland aims to make customers' lives easier. There's plenty of room to park at the rear of the store and Dreamland deliver across

**With such an excellent reputation for service it has been matching its customers with perfect beds for the past 40 years**

the West Midlands, including Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

Dreamland will deliver and assemble your new bed and take away the old one free of charge. Many customers choose to make a donation to Mary Stevens Charity, supported

by Dreamland. This has become a well known fundraising scheme with thousands of pounds raised for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Mike added: "We have raised more than £120,000 for the hospice through the delivery and removal contributions and some of the old beds have been sold in hospice's shops to generate further funds."

Dreamland attracts a lot of its business through word of mouth and recommendations.

Mike added that because they have been around for such a long time people know that they can rely on Dreamland.

Look out for Dreamland's fabulous offers and events to celebrate its 40 years in business throughout the year.

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Business:

Dreamland Bedding Centre

### Address:

23 Mill Street, Brierley Hill,  
West Midlands, DY5 2RG

### Telephone:

01384 74166

## Did You Sleep Alright Last Night?

If not, buying a New Bed from

# Dreamland's FABULOUS SALE!

Will be the BEST thing you have done for a good nights sleep.

## 3 FLOORS OF FAMOUS NAMES GUARANTEED BEST PRICES



**Sale Now On**

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**HYPNOS**



**SOMNUS**



**Silentnight**



**REST ASSURED**



**Slumberland**



**Dunlopillo**



**Relyon**  
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**Sealy**



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Double £499 Now £359  
King £519 Now £399



**40 YEARS**

Oak Bedsteads  
Double £359 Now £299  
King £409 Now £359



**Great reductions off sofa beds Nexus £509 Now £459**



**Adjustable Beds Now from £499**



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**SUPPORTERS OF MARY STEVENS HOSPICE**






Plenty of seating areas to enjoy the fresh air



One of the many pets – Duncan the Shetland pony



Secluded and enclosed ornamental patio area

# Looking after all your needs

**YEW TREE** Nursing Home is a well established home located in the picturesque rural village of Romsley, close to the post office, shops and pub.

With 41 bedrooms over two floors the home is set in extensive grounds with both patio areas and sun terraces overlooking the beautiful countryside and beyond.

There is also a secluded and enclosed ornamental patio area which is accessible at anytime enabling the residents to grow herbs and vegetables and to take part in gardening activities as part of their daily living.

Alternatively, residents can just relax in one of the many seating areas and enjoy the fresh air and peaceful location of

the home with only the sound of the wind chimes, the water feature and occasionally the hens or pony saying hello to break the ambience.

There are four lounges, each with its own unique character. The front lounge is within our specialised Dementia Unit which has recently undergone a full refurbishment.

The Garden Lounge is the largest in the home with a bright and airy feel with countryside views and accessibility for all residents to the outside Sun Terrace.

We also have two quaint lounges which have a more private, intimate and relaxing environment, ideal for family visits and special occasions. Yew Tree Nursing Home also has its own pets. We have Duncan the Shetland pony, Gemma the cat,

**Bright and airy feel with countryside views and accessibility for all our residents to the outside sun terrace**

Joe the budgerigar, John and James the guinea pigs and hens collectively called the Cheeky Girls. Pets often expand the sociability of older people and have a positive benefit on our residents' well being.

Yew Tree has also been awarded the 'Gold Standards Framework' in Care Homes. The GSF (Gold Standards Framework) is a systematic, evidence based ap-

proach to optimising care for all patients approaching the end of their life.

Yew Tree Nursing Home also organises day trips throughout the spring and summer and has stag and hen parties whenever a member of staff is getting married.

Yew Tree Nursing Home aims to provide its residents with a secure, relaxed and homely environment in which their care, well being and comfort is of prime importance. All staff will preserve and maintain dignity, individuality and privacy of all residents within a warm and caring environment and in doing so will be sensitive to the residents' ever-changing needs.

For all any further information or to arrange a visit, please call Carol Lightwood (Home Manager) or Vicky Mills (Business Manager) on 01562 710809

## BUSINESS PROFILE

**Business:**

Yew Tree Nursing Home

**Address:**

Yew Tree Place, Romsley, B62 ONX

**Telephone:**

01562 710809

**Website:**

[www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk](http://www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk)

**Yew  
Tree**

**NURSING  
HOME**

**Yew Trees, Yew Tree Place, Romsley, B62 ONX**  
**Tel: 01562 710809**  
**[www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk](http://www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk)**

**Offering you nursing experience and expertise in our idyllic country retreat  
ensuring your stay with us feels like home from home.**

### WE OFFER

- 24 hour nursing care in a warm and friendly environment
- Single and double bedrooms available, en-suite facilities
- Specialist care for dementia, nursing and Palliative Care
- Weekly activity packages, day trips, pub visits, etc Home cooked meals prepared by our 5\* rated kitchens
- Large gardens where you can become friends with our Shetland pony, cat and guinea pig

**Come and see for yourselves - no appointment necessary**

# Say I do to a Manor wedding

**LOOKING** for somewhere to spend a special day? Grafton Manor can offer you that and much more.

Both a luxury hotel and a family home, this Elizabethan manor house offers the ideal venue for weddings, civil ceremonies or even a delightful meal out.

The family-run team at Grafton Manor do not settle for anything less than perfect.

Their focus is not just on weddings, their stunning restaurant and bar offer a brand new menu, perfect for you to celebrate any special occasion.

Why not make your time at Grafton Manor a little extra special? The manor has 10 bedrooms so you can experience a perfect getaway.

When it comes to weddings Grafton Manor has everything covered.

## Breathtaking

You and your guests have the place to yourselves, with exclusive use of its newly-refurbished restaurant, John Morris Hall, conference and banqueting facilities and breathtaking gardens.

Planning a wedding is no easy task, that's why Grafton Manor is here to take the weight off your shoulders.

They even have a wedding dress shop and formal hire which you can try on at your leisure.

The appointment-only basis at Grafton Manor or Bridal Designs and the formal hire means you can spend time perusing through the wide range of designer dresses and suits without being rushed.

When it comes to planning your ceremony size is never a problem at Grafton Manor.

You can have a civil ceremony in the stunning library which holds up to 110 guests, or you can keep it intimate – the choice is yours. After say-



Real luxury with Grafton's sumptuous rooms



Grafton Manor has 10 bedrooms so you can experience a perfect getaway

## Planning a wedding is no easy task, that's why Grafton Manor is here to take the weight off your shoulders

Dance the night away on the happiest day of your life before heading outside to watch some fireworks.

You won't be short of photo opportunities either; the Manor is surrounded by beautiful gardens, a three-acre lake and luscious lawns that create the perfect backdrop for your photos.

For further information on Grafton Manor visit their website or call 01527 579 007



You can have a civil ceremony in the stunning and spacious library

## BUSINESS PROFILE

### Business:

Grafton Manor

### Address:

Grafton Manor Hotel, Grafton Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, B61 7HA

### Telephone:

01527 579 007

### Website:

[www.graftonmanorhotel.co.uk](http://www.graftonmanorhotel.co.uk)

### Email:

[office@graftonmanorhotel.co.uk](mailto:office@graftonmanorhotel.co.uk)



GRAFTON MANOR HOTEL  
SINCE 1567

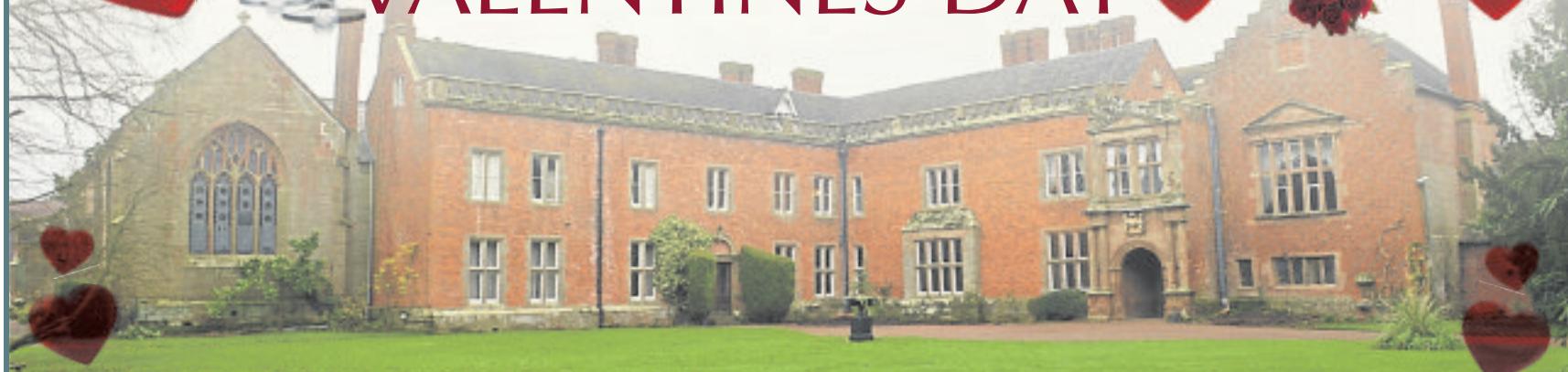
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Working out – plenty of different types of equipment on offer



Looking good – Gymophobics staff enjoying the awards evening

# Helping you to achieve your goals

HAVE you ever wanted to improve your health and fitness but don't like the conventional gyms? Then Gymophobics Halesowen is able to help you.

This fantastic women's-only gym is here to provide you with all the support you need in a relaxed and safe atmosphere. The experienced team at Gymophobics can help you achieve your goals.

Manager of Gymophobics Halesowen, Andrea, said: "We are the only ladies-only gym in Halesowen, we are the UK's premier weight and inch loss centre.

"A lot of our ladies seem to be 40-years-old plus but we seem to have broken that mould. We even have mothers and

daughters come together, we pride ourselves very much in the range of ladies that come to our gym.

"My oldest client is 83 and my youngest is 13, so we have every shape and size come to our gym and that is something that we really pride ourselves with too."

For many women conventional gyms can be intimidating with high intensity classes, mirrors on every wall and music playing, Gymophobics is different.

Andrea added: "Ladies want to go to a nice, comfortable environment to go to. Some people are very intimidated when they got to the gym, but compared to a normal gym we are as far apart as you can get. If anyone has ever gone to a gym and

**'Some people are very intimidated when they go to the gym, but in comparison we are as far apart as you can get'**

hated it for whatever reason they should come to us and we think they would be pleasantly surprised."

Gymophobics takes a different approach to exercise, their specially-designed 30 minute circuit alongside a personal programme allows you to enjoy your exercise without the rushed environment of a conventional gym.

"There is no other place us around in Halesowen and it has taken a while for us to get word out about us. We find that more and more people are joining us through word of mouth, we have open weeks and days, but I think it's a gym that appeals to anyone. We also offer healthy eating programmes and offer support to our members every step of the way."

Andrea took over last January and with refurbishments nearly completed the gym is rapidly attracting new members.

"We increased our members by 24 per cent last year," she added. "At the end of 2014 we had 174 members and at the same time last year we had 269 ladies."

## BUSINESS PROFILE

**Business:**

Gymophobics Halesowen

**Address:**

51 High Street

Halesowen

B63 3BG

**Telephone:**

0121 448 1743

**Website:**

[www.gymophobics.co.uk/halesowen](http://www.gymophobics.co.uk/halesowen)

# CHANGING THE SHAPE OF HALESOWEN

- ✓ Ladies only
- ✓ 30 minute sessions
- ✓ Fast results
- ✓ No fitness required
- ✓ VIP attention
- ✓ No waiting
- ✓ No age limit
- ✓ No mirrors
- ✓ Membership from £1 a day

**Rachel lost 7 1/2 stone in 12 months**  
at Gymophobics, Halesowen



BEFORE



AFTER



National  
Slimmer  
of the  
Year

# Lead by example to back charity

WITH the Christmas and New Year celebrations over and the tree packed away, tragically it won't just be the remnants of the festivities that get thrown out with the rubbish, but a large number of dogs as well.

This month is traditionally a time when many would-be owners suddenly realise that the cute puppy they went out and bought actually needs to be looked after properly, in a loving home.

This leads to the already extremely busy Birmingham Dogs' Home being inundated with yet more four-legged friends to care for and find new homes.

Thankfully there will always be loving and caring people in search of a much cherished new pet pooch – and they are encouraged to visit the charity's centres and rescue a dog instead of going out and buying one from a breeder.

Birmingham Dogs' Home recently opened its show-piece, state-of-the-art Dog Rescue and Welfare Centre on Catherine de Barnes Lane, Solihull, not far from Birmingham Airport.

These environmentally-friendly, custom-built premises replaced its former facility in Digbeth, following a massive fundraising campaign and provides the latest in animal welfare, from underfloor heating to glass-fronted kennels and first rate veterinary suites to an expansive community room for the charity's outreach programme.

Commercial manager Alayna Warner said: "We at Birmingham Dogs' Home are primarily here to ensure that the abandoned dogs coming into our care are rescued from their plight, reunited with owners who may have lost them, or rehomed to families that will respect and nurture them. Our rehoming procedure is designed and operated principally to be both practical and fair. It takes into consideration the high number of dogs brought into our homes on a daily and weekly basis as well as our



Birmingham Dogs Home's sign

desire to find the best possible home for each individual dog in our care."

The public are free to walk around the site to view dogs at any time between Monday to Saturday, between 11am and 4.45pm. Not all dogs are available for rehoming. Some are stray dogs due to be claimed by their owners while others are under assessment by staff for either medical or behavioural concerns.

Once you have spent time with one of the dogs and are satisfied that you would like to offer the dog a home, rehoming staff take you through the various stages required to complete the process. "Absolutely no pressure is placed on anyone to offer a dog a home," said Alayna. "However, we do stress to anyone considering this option, that they must take as much time necessary before deciding to reserve a dog in our care."

Birmingham Dogs' Home was founded in 1892 on land made available by the late



Heritage has its head office in Smethwick, but operates from five sites 24

Sir Alfred Gooch Bart in New Canal Street, Birmingham. Sadly this building, which over a century later still had 'Birmingham Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' proudly displayed above its doors, was destroyed in a fire during 2014.

In 1987, the Duchess of York officially opened the Bartholomew Street Home which, at that time, had been purpose-built to provide shelter and protection for over 120 abandoned strays. Over the years, however, it became obvious that it was necessary to provide updated and more appropriate accommodation which would also provide much-needed exercise areas in which to walk the dogs.

While the Catherine-de-Barnes site houses the charity's head office, its second Centre – Sunnyside – in Coven, Wolverhampton, is a modern, 21st century Home built in 2002.

Sunnyside houses 100 strays in superb accommodation complete with veterinary

consulting room and isolation unit for dogs requiring special, one-to-one care and treatment.

The newest 12.45 acre site on Catherine de Barnes Lane, Solihull is in the Green Belt, so a very detailed environmentally considerate design had to be put together for it. It has 128 large kennels with under floor heating, veterinary suite, education/community centre and superb staff facilities. Supporters looking to find their new companion can walk dogs in open countryside there.

Birmingham Dogs' Home is a charity which can only survive through the generosity and support of the general public and benefactors from the local community.

As well as offering a rescue dog a new home there are other ways in which you can support this good cause. Fundraising is the lifeblood of Birmingham Dogs' Home. Without it, it simply could not exist. With no Government

## BUSINESS PROFILE

**Business name:**  
Birmingham Dogs Home

**Birmingham address:**  
Catherine-de-Barnes Lane  
Catherine-de-Barnes  
Solihull B92 0DJ

**Telephone:**  
0121 643 5211

**Wolverhampton address:**  
Sunnyside Centre  
Sunnyside, Dark Lane  
Coven, Wolverhampton  
South Staffs WV10 7PN

**Telephone:**  
01902 790618

**Website:**  
[www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk)

funding, the charity survives purely through the generous contributions of the general public, interested companies, groups, organisations and kind-hearted individuals who may or may not have received dogs from the centres and have remembered them in their Wills.

Alayna said: "Legacies and other contributions are valued beyond compare and allow us to carry on providing care and protection for unwanted dogs."

"Our highly trained kennel team does the rest with loving pastoral care prior to their four-legged charges leaving for pastures new."

The charity appeals for funds on a daily basis to help maintain its services of caring for the unwanted and sick dogs of Birmingham, West Midlands and South Staffordshire. Every single penny is valued and Birmingham Dogs' Home is deeply indebted to supporters.

For further information on how you can help, visit [www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk).

**Birmingham Dogs Home**

**Sunnyside kennels**

**WANTED**

Abandoned faithful companion seeks loving new home. Happy disposition despite neglect. Just wants to give love and be loved.

Please **01902 790618** call **0121 643 5211**

We have many dogs desperate for new homes. Please feel free to visit our centre or log onto our website. [www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdogshome.org.uk)

If you cannot rehome you can help us with donations or sponsorship

**Wolverhampton:** Dark Lane Cross Green Coven Wolverhampton WV10 7PN  
**Birmingham:** Catherine-De-Barnes Lane, Catherine-De-Barnes, Solihull, B92 0DJ

**I NEED A HOME**

These 8 dogs are at Birmingham Dogs Home  
0121 643 5211

Ola  
Ref. 34530

Sophie  
Ref. 34581

Bradley  
Ref. 34828

Tiny  
Ref. 34478

Luca  
Ref. 34533

Barbara  
Ref. 34658

Rusty  
Ref. 34912

Hey Boy  
Ref. 34913

These 8 dogs are at Sunnyside Kennels  
01902 790 618

Benny  
Ref. 438510

Jax  
Ref. 438579

Chloe  
Ref. 438500

Elsa  
Ref. 438487

Betty  
Ref. 438551

Cody  
Ref. 438593

Buster  
Ref. 438526

Siren  
Ref. 438576

# fast theticket

## On the case

An Inspector Calls at Wolverhampton Grand – Page 27



### In a stew

Stewart Lee – Page 27



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## Jason Derulo



**Saturday, 6pm**  
**Barclaycard Arena, B'ham**

Hot on the heels of landing his fourth UK Number One single with 'Want To Want Me', the phenomenally successful Jason Derulo is now on tour. Aston Merrygold will support. Visit [www.barclaycardarena.co.uk](http://www.barclaycardarena.co.uk)

## POP & ROCK

### TesseractT

Thu at 7pm, £13  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

### Evil Scarecrow

Fri at 7pm, £10  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

### The Classic Rock Show

Sat at 7.30pm, £22.50  
Birmingham Town Hall,  
B3 3DQ.  
Call 0121 780 3333

### Jason Derulo

Sat at 6pm, £30.20 - £40.20  
Barclaycard Arena,  
Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
Call 0121 780 4141

### Bootleg Abba: Abba Tribute, Bee Gees Fever: Bee Gees Tribute

Sat at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
WV14 7LJ.  
Call 01902 401211

### The Rooz

Fri at 7pm,  
The Rainbow, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B12 0LD.  
Call 0121 753 1818

### The Food Fighterz: Foo Fighters Tribute

Fri at 7pm,  
The Roadhouse Birmingham,  
B30 3DZ.  
Call 0121 246 2273

### Mayday Parade

Fri at 6.30pm, £16  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

### Flash Of The Blade: Guts For Glory

Sat at 7pm,  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

### Massive Attack

Sat at 7pm - 11pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

### The Cadillac Three

Thu at 7pm - 11pm,  
The Institute,  
Digbeth, Birmingham,  
B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

### Neck Deep

Mon at 7pm,  
The Institute,  
Digbeth, Birmingham,  
B5 6DY.  
Call 0121 643 0428

### The Wedding Crashers

Tue at 8.30pm,  
The Jam House,  
Birmingham, B31QU.  
Call 0121 200 3030

## The Solid Life Of Sugar Water



**Tuesday - Feb 6**

**Rep Theatre, B'ham**

Phil and Alice are in love and healing wounds. Candid, uninhibited and visceral, this new play from the award-winning Jack Thorne is a tender portrait of loss, hurt and recovery. Visit [www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk)

## Transatlantic Sessions

Tue at 7.30pm,  
Symphony Hall,  
Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
Call 0121 780 3333

### Minus The Bear

Fri at 6pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

### Ian McCulloch

Wed at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
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Call 01902 401211

### Whitesnake UK

Fri at 7.30pm,  
The Robin 2, Bilston,  
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### The Carnival Of Madness

Tue at 7pm, £32.20  
Barclaycard Arena,  
Birmingham, B1 2AA.  
Call 0121 780 4141

### Nekrogoblikon

Mon at 7pm,  
Wolverhampton Slade Rooms,  
WV1 1RQ.  
Call 0870 320 7000

### Sunflower Bean

Wed at 7.30pm,  
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
Call 0844 870 0000

### Awake By Design

Sat at 6.45pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

### The Enid: Dust

Sat at 8pm,  
The Crescent Theatre,  
Birmingham, B16 8AE.  
Call 0121 643 5858

### Get Inuit

Tue at 8pm,  
The Sunflower Lounge,  
Birmingham, B5 4EG.  
Call 0121 632 6756

### Hozier

Tue at 7pm, £22.50  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB.  
Call 0121 622 8250

## ACOUSTIC & FOLK

### Chris Wood

Mon at 8pm, £13 - £15  
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
ST16 2LT.  
Call 01785 254653

### Gordie MacKeeman & His Rhythm Boys

Wed at 7.30pm,  
Festival Drayton Centre,  
Market Drayton,  
TF9 3AX.  
Call 01630 654444

### The Wedding Crashers

Tue at 8.30pm,  
The Jam House,  
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Call 0121 200 3030

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Hare & Hounds,  
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## Hozier



**Tuesday, 7pm**

**O2 Academy, B'ham**

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## David O'Doherty



**Saturday, 8pm**

**Stafford Gatehouse**

David O'Doherty, the Lidl Enya, the broken Bubble, is delighted to present an evening of talking and songs played on a stupid keyboard from 1986. [www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://www.staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

# Hit revival of play calls at the Grand



Geoff Leesley as Mr Birley confronts Inspector Goole, Liam Brennan, in *An Inspector Calls* picture Mark Douet

STAGE and film director Stephen Daldry's award-winning National Theatre production of JB Priestley's classic thriller *An Inspector Calls* is staged at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, February 2 to 6.

Stephen Daldry, the Oscar-nominated director best known for *Billy Elliot* and *The Reader*, won his first major directorial success in 1992

when his visionary revival of *An Inspector Calls* at the National Theatre.

The play tells of a dinner party at the home of the wealthy Birling family shattered by the mysterious Inspector Goole and his investigation into the death of a woman.

Featuring Ian MacNeil's ingenious designs, a sweeping score by Oscar-winning composer Stephen Warbeck and atmospheric lighting

by Rick Fisher, the production has received 19 international awards, including the Olivier Award for Best Revival, Best Director, Best Designer and Tony Awards on Broadway.

The production went on to be the longest running play revival in history, in the West End for six years, on Broadway, across Australia, the United States, Japan and Europe, and has completed seven major UK tours.

## Comic Stew's Room service

SOLIHULL-RAISED TV comic Stewart Lee will headline Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre to prepare for a new series on BBC 2.

Lee will perform Room With A Stew at the city centre venue on Sunday.

The show will feature fresh material for his new TV show Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle.

Lee's recent work has won starry reviews from critics with the Guardian describing him as more playful and skilful than ever. The Times wrote: "What is exhilarating is how many surprises he still throws in and how deft his jumps are from one tone to another... invigorating."

Lee follows his muse and delights when jokes arrive. "Sometimes I read that I'm this left-wing comic who just goes on about politics the whole time. Other times I read that it's just surreal nonsense about crisps. It's both of those."

### Terrifying

"Or I read there's no jokes and it's just about cleverness of structure and then I read a criticism of the last series that it was an obvious bid for mainstream acceptance by being full of jokes. It's a lot of things."

"I don't know where the ideas come from and it's terrifying. They seem to be absolute flukes."

"When I was in my 20s I'd walk around with a notebook all the time and make sure I wrote down anything that occurred to me. "Now I'm just hoping that some sort of event will descend on me."

**'I don't know where the ideas come from'**

### Shows are Strictly for fans of dance

KEEP dancing with Strictly Come Dancing professionals this weekend. Tomorrow (Fri) Brendan Cole brings his A Night To Remember show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. A veteran of all 13 series of Strictly, Brendan won the first with Natasha Kaplinsky and in the latest partnered Kirsty Gallacher.

On Saturday it's the Just Gotta Dance show with Anton & Erin at Birmingham Symphony Hall. Australian Erin Boag took part in series one to ten of Strictly, reaching second place with Colin Jackson. Anton du Beke is a veteran of all 13, third with Lesley Garrett in series one before reaching the final again last year with Katie Derham.

### Nigel's fresh take on Four Seasons

VIOLIN virtuoso Nigel Kennedy found fame with his two-million selling 1989 recording of Vivaldi's Four Seasons and, after experiments with jazz, rock and Jewish klezmer music, has returned to his most famous work for a concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Sunday.

The 59-year-old former boy prodigy has strong associations with Birmingham, not least because the Brighton-born musician is an avid Aston Villa fan.

He will perform a fresh take on The Four Seasons, after his latest recording which blends Vivaldi with jazz and rock, and his own compositions in The English Collection.

### Solo gig by Mac of The Bunnymen

ECHO and The Bunnymen frontman Ian McCulloch will be giving a rare solo performance at the Robin 2 in Bistol.

Formed in Liverpool in 1978, The Bunnymen became one of the most popular indie rock bands of the 1980s.

The band's top ten singles included The Cutter, The Killing Moon and Nothing Lasts Forever. They released 12 studio albums between 1980 and 2014.

McCulloch will play stripped down versions of band's classic tracks, as well as songs from his own four-album solo back catalogue on Wednesday, February 3. Tickets cost £18.50 or £20 on the door for this seated show

17 - 27  
FEBRUARY



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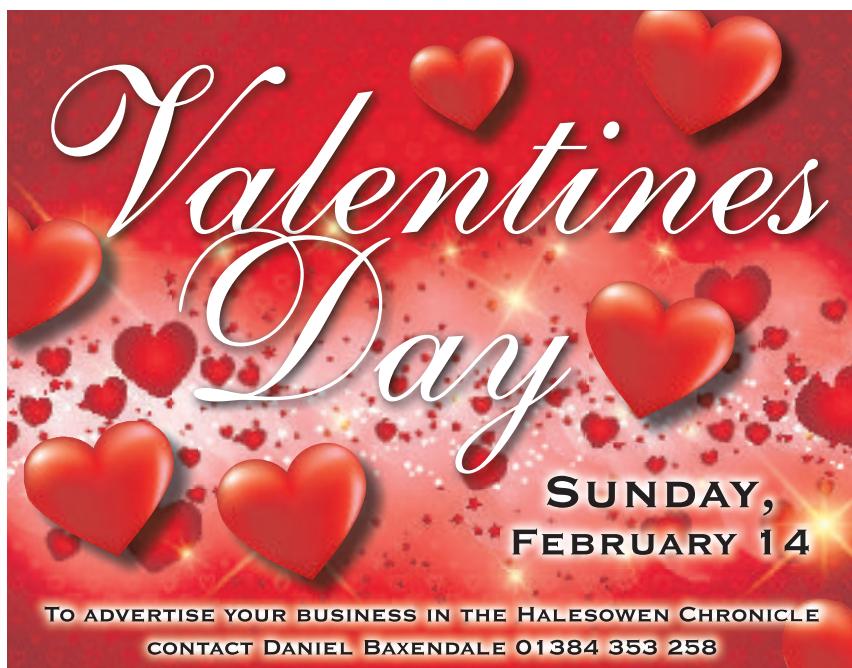
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## CHOICE



Crystal Yu

### Casualty (BBC1, 9.10pm)

The day of Dixie's disciplinary hearing arrives, but things get off to a bad start when she is held up by an incident, and when Jess asks her to move to Cornwall with her and Olivia, the paramedic must decide whether to follow her head or her heart. Lily desperately hopes to re-establish her bond with Ethan by trying to convince him to stay, Connie tries to come up with a meaningful gift to make up for missing Jacob's birthday, and Robyn's appearance on the cover of Holby Pulse only serves to increase Big Mac's feeling of shame over abandoning Noel to his mystery mugger. Medical drama, starring Jane Hazlegrove, Michael Stevenson, Charles Venn, Amanda Mealing and Crystal Yu.

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Live. (11.30) Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00 BBC News:** Weather. **12.10 Football Focus.** **1.00 Tennis:** Australian Open Highlights. **2.30 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **3.15 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.00 Final Score.** **5.10 Now You See It.** **5.40 BBC News.** **5.50 Regional Programme.**
- 6.00 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz.
- 6.50 The Getaway Car.** Brothers Milt and Dee, husband-and-wife duo Charlie and Kate, best friends Chloe and Bethany, sisters Val and Babs and new couple Joseph and Karen tackle the Getaway Car circuit.
- 7.45 The Voice UK.** Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson appraise the talents of more would-be stars as the spinning-chair singing contest continues. This week marks the fourth of seven "blind audition" rounds, and tensions are beginning to rise between the superstar coaches. Kevin Simm, former member of pop group Liberty X, shows off his skills as a solo artist, and his performance causes a dramatic clash between two members of the panel. Plus, 16-year-old aspiring star Heather Cameron-Hayes, rockabilly singer Sammy-Jo Evans and duo The Dublin City Rounders take to the stage.
- 9.10 Casualty.** Dixie's disciplinary hearing gets off to a bad start, and she considers moving to Cornwall with Jess and Olivia. Meanwhile, Lily tries to re-establish her bond with Ethan.
- 10.00 The National Lottery Live.** Actor Matthew Kelly joins Gaby Roslin at Lottery HQ, where he is invited to press the lotto button and reveal the all-important winning numbers.
- 10.10 BBC News:** Weather.
- 10.30 Match of the Day: FA Cup** Highlights. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest FA Cup fourth-round ties; National Lottery Update.
- 11.50 Film:** *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life.* (2003) **1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.** (2013) **1.40 BBC News.**

## BBC2

- 6.30 Race to Super Bowl 50.** (R) **7.20 Film:** *Cowboy.* (1958) **8.45 Film:** *The Quick Gun.* (1964) **10.10 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **11.10 Natural World.** (R) **12.00 Best Bakes Ever.** (R) **12.45 Come Dine With Me.** **1.30 Fire Below.** (1957) Romantic drama, starring Rita Hayworth and Robert Mitchum. **3.20 Film:** *Film TBA.* **5.35 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip.** (R)
- 6.35 King George and Queen Mary: The Royals Who Rescued the Monarchy.** The first of two documentaries providing an insight into the lives of George V and Queen Mary, revealing their lasting influence on Britain's monarchy. The opening film focuses on King George, highlighting how a Victorian-age conservative ended up becoming an unlikely moderniser. The outbreak of the First World War prompted George to reconsider the solidarity of Europe's royal families, leading him to create the House of Windsor and embrace democratic reform. The programme also explores his strained relationship with his children, and the contrasting kinship he found with his granddaughter Princess Elizabeth. (R)
- 7.35 Dad's Army.** The air-raid wardens have to share the church hall with the Home Guard after their HQ is bombed, but Hodges' men are terribly disruptive and soon cause mayhem. (R)
- 8.05 The Real Marigold Hotel.** Eight celebrities embark on an experimental adventure to Jaipur in India, to test whether they can set up a more rewarding retirement than in the UK. (R)
- 9.05 Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life in this show recorded before a packed house at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)
- 9.50 Insert Name Here.** Comedy panel game in which host Sue Perkins asks teams captained by Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. (R)
- 10.20 Film:** *Perfume: The Story of a Murderer.* (2006) Period thriller, with Ben Whishaw, Dustin Hoffman and Alan Rickman.
- 12.35 Film:** *Bright Days Ahead.* (2013) **2.05 This Is BBC Two.**

## ITV

- 6.00 CITV:** *Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.* **6.25 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.45 Dino Dan.** (R) **7.00 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.05 Sooty.** (R) **7.15 Super 4.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled:** Mr Bean. (R) **7.45 Scrambled:** Mr Bean. (R) **7.50 Scrambled:** The Animated Series. (R) **7.55 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monsters. **8.30 Scrambled:** Jessie. (R) **9.05 Scrambled:** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.20 ITV News:** Weather. **12.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.30 Tipping Point.** (R) **3.30 Doc Martin.** (R) **4.30 The Martin Lewis Money Show.** (R) **5.00 The Chase.** (R)
- 6.00 Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.15 ITV News:** Weather.
- 6.30 New You've Been Framed!** More comical mishaps filmed by viewers, including a mechanic's inventive use for an airbag, a disastrous moped selfie, and the dangers of wearing a monkey as a wig.
- 7.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** The semi-finals arrive, abd Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara challenge the contestants who survived the heats to test their endurance on the obstacle course once again.
- 8.00 Take Me Out.** Paddy McGuinness continues to arrange more dates for his 30 single women. This time, the "love lift" delivers hypnotist Ben from London, Essex-based broker Harry, Edinburgh landscape gardener David and Paul, a "body double" from Dublin. All four men are given a chance to win over Paddy's singletons, but to secure a date they must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval.
- 9.15 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the studio by actress Brenda Blethyn, who discusses the return of Northumberland-set detective drama Vera, and re-emerging singer-songwriter Craig David.
- 10.15 ITV News:** Weather.
- 10.30 Film:** *The Lost World: Jurassic Park.* (1997) Steven Spielberg's adventure sequel, with Jeff Goldblum and Julianne Moore.
- 12.45 Jackpot247.** **3.00 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** (R) **6.40 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.05 Snowdonia Marathon.** **8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 The Morning Line.** **10.00 Frasier.** (R) **10.30 Frasier.** (R) **11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.30 Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Cheltenham and Doncaster. **4.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **4.25 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.00 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.30 Come Dine with Me.** (R)
- 6.00 Come Dine with Me.** It is the final day of the dinner party contest in Derby and the turn of confident triathlete David Morris to host, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel from Birmingham to Braunston to attend a festival of vintage canal boats, aided on the tricky journey by their son Sam and Juliet, Timothy's daughter from his first marriage. Along the way, they meet a 78-year-old boatman, who reveals how he was born on a canal boat, and unveil a plaque dedicated to a woman who dedicated her life to preserving Britain's canals. (R)
- 8.00 Amazing Spaces: Floating Homes.** George Clarke follows designer friend Max McMurdo as he builds his own floating home in a 40ft shipping container, mooring it in a local marina to begin a new life on the water. (R)
- 9.00 Film: Now You See Me.** (2013) Premier. Four magicians use their lavish stage shows as cover for a series of seemingly impossible heists, and give away the money they steal to their audiences. An FBI agent assembles a team of experts to discover how the baffling robberies are committed and what the secret agenda behind the crime spree is. Crime thriller, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo, Woody Harrelson and Isla Fisher.
- 11.15 Film:** *The Hole.* (2009) Horror, starring Chris Massoglia and Haley Bennett.
- 1.05 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.10 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R) **4.05 Beat My Build.** (R) **5.00 Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.50 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** **8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **9.00 Top Gear.** **9.10 Film:** *Die Hard with a Vengeance* (1995) **11.10 Family Guy.** **12.5 Siblings** **1.55 Great Movie Mistakes V:** Revenge of the Fifth. **2.05 Film:** *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* (2007) **4.00 Close ITV2**
- 6.10 Night of Tenants, Slum Landlords.** A tenant who turned out to be a confidence trickster and a letting agent who locked a couple out of their own buy-to-let investment property. Last in the series. (R)
- 7.00 World War II in Colour.** This edition focuses on Japan's early involvement in the war, including its attack on the US Navy at Pearl Harbour in December 1941, which led to America's entry into the conflict. (R)
- 7.55 World War II Battlefield Recovery.** The excavation team explores trenches in Latvia's Courland peninsula, where they uncover a live shell, and the bodies of fallen German and Russian soldiers. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.55 5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Highlights of the latest Championship matches, including Bristol City v Birmingham City, Huddersfield Town v Cardiff City, and Rotherham United v Charlton Athletic.
- 9.30 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** A round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, with fixtures including Peterborough United v Burton Albion and Plymouth Argyle v Wycombe Wanderers.
- 10.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** Catching up with the celebrities as they react to Friday night's eviction, revealing how the latest departure has affected the remaining contestants.
- 11.00 Fat, Fabulous and Filthy Rich.** People who are cashing in on the fuller figure, from a woman blazing a trail in the plus-size world with dating sites to a man making large coffins. (R)
- 11.15 Film:** *The Hole.* (2009) Horror, starring Chris Massoglia and Haley Bennett.
- 1.05 Hollyoaks.** (R) **3.10 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R) **4.05 Beat My Build.** (R) **5.00 Deal or No Deal.** (R) **5.50 How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

## DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00 Don't Tell the Bride.** **8.00 Top Gear.** **9.10 Film:** *Die Hard with a Vengeance* (1995) **11.10 Family Guy.** **12.5 Siblings** **1.55 Great Movie Mistakes V:** Revenge of the Fifth. **2.05 Film:** *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* (2007) **4.00 Close ITV2**
- 7.00 How Earth Made Us.** **8.00 Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History**
- 9.00 The Young Montalbano.** **10.45 Music Moguls:** Masters of Pop. **11.45 It's Only Rock 'n' Roll:** Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **12.45 Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown.** **1.45 Top of the Pops:** 1981 **3.05 Sounds of the Eighties.** **3.35 Close ITV3**
- 12.20 Scorpion.** **1.20 You've Been Framed.** **2.00 Gold: Small Soldiers.** (1998) **4.00 Film:** *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas.* (2000) **5.50 Celebrity Catchphrase.** **6.50 The Moon Out - The Gossip.** (1999) **7.15 Let Me Out - The Gossip.** (2006) **8.12 The Keith Lemon Sketch Show.** **12.40 Beovouf: Return to the Shieldlands.** **1.40 Viral Tap.** **2.15 Totally Bonkers.** **2.25 Guinness World Records.** **2.35 Planet's Funniest Animals.** **3.00 Teleshopping.**
- E4**
- 12.00 The Goldbergs.** **1.00 Come Dine with Me.** (Me 3) **2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine.** **4.00 The Goldbergs.** **5.00 The Big Bang Theory.** **9.00 Film:** *Safe House.* (2012) **11.15 Gogglebox.** **1.25 Virtually Famous.** **2.15 The Inbetweeners.** **3.05 The IT Crowd.** **4.00 Rules of Engagement.** **5.05 Revenge Film4**
- 1.00 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.** (2010) **3.10 Beaches.** (1988) **3.5 California Man.** (1992) **7.15 Post Grad.** (2009) **9.00 Van Helsing.** (2004) **11.40 Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter.** (2012) **1.45 The French Connection.** (1971) **4.00 Close**

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## CHOICE



**Matt Baker**

## BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast. **7.40 Match of the Day:** FA Cup Highlights. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00 The Big Questions.** 11.00 Regional Programme. **12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) 1.00 BBC News. 1.15 **Story of Pompeii.** 1.50 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.35 The Great Sport Relief Bake Off. (R) 3.35 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup.
- 6.30 **6.30 News.**
- 6.50 **Regional Programme.**
- 7.00 **Countryfile.** A round-up on how winter is affecting rural areas, featuring reports on hill farming, migrating birds, hybrid wolves that have adapted to the cold, cod fishing and endangered sheep. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
- 8.00 **Call the Midwife.** A rare disease spreads around Poplar Street, and Paityn and Dr. Turner must trace the outbreak to its source. Suspicion over the identity of the first carrier threatens to divide a previously close-knit family. Sister Winifred is forced to confront her prejudices while treating a patient, and Barbara worries about how Trixie will react when she agrees to go to dinner with Tom.
- 9.00 **War & Peace.** Pierre's eyes are opened to the horrors of war. Natasha falls ill and Andrei swears revenge as Napoleon's forces invade Russia and preparations are made to meet them in battle.
- 10.00 **BBC News.**
- 10.20 **Regional Programme.**
- 10.30 **Match of the Day:** FA Cup Highlights. Action from today's fourth-round ties, which were Carlisle United v Everton at Brunton Park, and Milton Keynes Dons v Chelsea at Stadium mk.
- 11.00 **Live at the Apollo.** Sarah Millican hosts an evening of stand-up at the Apollo in Hammersmith, London. (R)
- 11.30 **Film: My Brother the Devil.** (2012) Premiere. Mo, the teenage son of an Egyptian immigrant to London, dislikes his older brother Rashid, a drug dealer, and longs to follow in his footsteps. However, Rashid wants Mo to make something more of his life, while realisations about himself make him question his place in the criminal underworld. Drama, starring James Floyd.
- 1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.20 BBC News.

## BBC2

- 6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.00 The Secret History of the British Garden. **8.00 Countryfile.** (R) 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) 10.30 Best Bakes Ever. (R) 11.15 Best Bakes Ever. (R) 12.30 Film: Scrambled. (2004) Historical Western, starring Dennis Quaid. 2.05 Tennis: Australian Open Highlights. 3.35 Film: Ladies in Lavender. (2004) Period drama, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith. 5.15 Ski Sunday.
- 6.00 **Film: John Carter.** (2012) An American Civil War soldier is transported to an alien planet, which is also being torn apart by conflict. He intercedes in this struggle after rescuing a princess from captivity, and must win the trust of a fierce primitive tribe to save the world. Fantasy adventure based on Edgar Rice Burroughs' series of novels, starring Taylor Kitsch and Lynn Collins. Edited for daytime broadcast.
- 8.00 **Dragons' Den.** Evan Davis gives more would-be entrepreneurs the chance to pitch their ideas to panelists Deborah Meaden, Nick Jenkins, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman and Sarah Willingam. Among the products up for inspection are a self-serve beer pump and a trailer tent that is tall enough to stand up in – but which proves harder to erect than its creator intended.
- 9.00 **James May's Cars of the People.** James charts the history of 4x4 vehicles from the jeeps of the Second World War onwards, revealing how they rose in popularity in everyday use and in rallies. He explores the rivalry between Land Rover and Land Cruiser, and puts some classic vehicles through their paces by driving up Mount Fuji and through the Mojave desert.
- 10.00 **Film: True Grit.** (2010) A farm girl recruits a hard-drinking, one-eyed marshal to help her track down the man who killed her father. The Coen brothers' Western, with Jeff Bridges and Hailee Steinfield.
- 11.45 **Film: Then She Found Me.** (2007) A teacher abandoned by her husband and facing a mid-life crisis is unexpectedly reunited with her eccentric biological mother. Comedy drama, starring Helen Mirren and Bette Midler.
- 1.20 **Skin Zone:** Countryfile. (R) 2.20 Holby City. (R) 3.15 This is BBC Two.

## ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge.** 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.05 Scooty. (R) 7.15 Super 4. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Mr Bear. (R) 7.45 Scrambled! Mr Bear. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Mr Bear. (R) 7.55 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. 9.05 Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.35 Judge Rinder. (R) 2.40 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 3.40 Film: Diamonds Are Forever. (1971) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery.
- 6.00 **Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 6.15 **ITV News:** Weather.
- 6.30 **Planet's Got Talent.** The best and worst clips from the Got Talent franchise, including a stunt involving an exploding limousine and a man who smashes watermelons on his head. Narrated by Warwick Davis.
- 7.00 **Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands.** The warrior and his allies try to make peace with a rival tribe, but are greeted with suspicion when they discover a terrible secret. David Bradley guest stars.
- 8.00 **Vera.** New series. A body is discovered on the Northumberland moors, and identified as a woman who made a distressed 999 call on the night of her death – suggesting she may have been abducted by someone she knew. Vera takes on the case, and discovers the victim was a controversial figure in her home town, who had a complicated relationship with her family and a number of well-hidden secrets.
- 10.00 **ITV News:** Weather.
- 10.15 **Panda Babies.** Vet Steve Leonard visits three panda reserves in China, following the development of several of these endangered animals from newborn to one-year-old toddlers. (R)
- 11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present coverage from the 10th round of fixtures.
- 1.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 **ITV Nightscreen.** 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.15 **How I Met Your Mother.** (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Best. 12.30 George's Marvellous Space. (R) 1.35 Location, Location, Location. (R) 2.35 The Simpsons. (R) 3.05 The Simpsons. (R) 4.30 The Simpsons. (R) 4.40 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 4.55 Channel 4 News. **5.20 Film:** The Incredibles. (2004) Pixar's animated adventure, with the voice of Craig T Nelson.
- 7.30 **The Jump.** New series. Davina McCall presents the third series of the celebrity winter sport challenge. The contestants in this year's show are Dean Cain, Sarah Harding, Linford Christie, James "Arg" Argent, Rebecca Adlington, Tina Hobley, Mark Francis Vandelli, Beth Tweddle, Tamara Beckwith, Brian McFadden, Louise Lyton and Sid Owen, who spend six weeks living together in the Austrian Alps and competing in a series of sporting challenges. The first round sees them taking part in the death defying skeleton event, with the losers facing a live Air Jumper to determine who will be eliminated.
- 9.00 **Deutschland 83.** Tischbirek offers Moritz the chance to return to East Berlin, so he can begin a journey to his roots. On his journey, however, he is asked to deliver a mysterious package – but when a bombing suddenly occurs moments later, he begins to wonder what was in the box and races to prevent further bloodshed. In German.
- 10.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr invites Sean Lock and Miles Jupp to go up against Jon Richardson and Sara Pascoe in the words-and-numbers quiz, while Sam Simmons helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
- 10.55 **Film: Sorority Row.** (2009) Five female students accidentally cause the death of a friend, and are stalked years later by a mysterious killer seeking justice. Horror remake, with Briana Evigan and Leah Pipes.
- 12.50 **Embarrassing Bodies:** Back to the Clinic. (R) 1.45 Come With Me. (R) 4.55 Hugh's Good Things. (R) 5.10 Deal or No Deal. (R) 6.00 House Doctor. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake! Peppa Pig.** 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.30 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.45 Ticky Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.05 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.30 The Wiggles. (R) 8.00 Disney Princess. (R) 7.50 Pig Ahoy! (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) 8.25 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 9.15 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 The Championships: Football League Tonight. (R) 11.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) 11.30 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) 12.00 Can't You? We'll Take It Away. (R) 1.00 Film: The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. 3.15 Film: No Reservations. (2007) Romantic comedy, with Catherine Zeta-Jones and Aaron Eckhart. 5.15 Film: Hitch. (2005) Romantic comedy, starring Will Smith and Eva Mendes.
- 7.25 **Film: The Wedding Date.** (2005) A single woman is horrified by the thought of attending her sister's wedding alone, a task made all the more daunting by the presence of her ex-boyfriend. When she吹起 the horns, she hires a male escort for the occasion – but her decision has unexpected results. Romantic comedy, starring Debra Messing, Jack Davenport, Amy Adams, Dermot Mulroney and Sarah Parish. Edited for language and sexual content.
- 8.55 **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00 **Celebrity Big Brother.** The remaining housemates embark on their final week, knowing only one of them can be crowned Celebrity Big Brother winner on Friday night. This has certainly been one of the most tense and argumentative houses in recent history – can it possibly get any worse as the celebrities begin to eye up the prize?
- 10.00 **Celebrity Bottched Up Bodies.** A former Miss England who nearly died of a blood clot caused by having her breast implants removed, and a reality TV contestant who received illegal injections. Last of the series.
- 11.00 **Film: Red Dragon.** (2002) Thriller prequel, with Anthony Hopkins.
- 1.20 **The Philpotts:** Britain's Worst Crimes. (R) 2.15 SuperCasino. 3.10 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R)

## DIGITAL

- BBC Three**  
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 7.05 Great TV Mistakes 7.35 The Voice UK 9.05 Film: Meet the Parents (2000) 10.45 Russell Howard's Good News 11.15 Family Guy 12.20 Cuckoo 3.20 Emergency Rescue Down Under 3.50 Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth 4.00 Close
- BBC Four**  
7.00 Pierre Boulez at the BBC: Master and Maverick 8.00 Russia's Lost Princesses 9.00 Tales from the Royal Bedchamber 10.00 Film: A Death Row Tale: The Fear of 13 (2015) 11.00 Horizon: What Is Reality? 12.00 The Crown with David Gandy 1.30 Rock 'n' Roll America 2.30 Sounds of the Eighties 2.55 Danny Baker's Great Album Showdown 3.55 Close
- ITV2**  
11.40 Take Me Out 1.00 Take Me Out – The Girls 2.00 Film: Call the Dog 4.00 Film: The Mummy Returns (2001) 6.15 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) 8.00 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) 11.15 Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) 1.05 Release the Hounds 2.05 Planet's Funniest Animals 2.30 Teleshopping
- ITV3**  
1.30 The Return of Sherlock Holmes 3.55 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.55 Midsomer Murders 8.00 The Secret Life of Dogs 9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks 11.00 The Kindness of Strangers 11.35 Film: Meet Joe Black (1998) 2.50 Secret Smile 4.05 On the Buses 4.35 Heartbeat 2.25 Movies Now 3.55 ITV3 Nightscreen
- ITV4**  
12.45 Live Darts: The Masters. 5.00 Storage Wars 5.55 The Classic Car Show 7.00 Live Darts: The Masters: The Quarter-finals 11.00 Film: Jackie Brown (1997) 2.10 Motorway Patrol 2.30 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Teleshopping
- E4**  
12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me 2.35 Film: Sister Act (1992) 4.35 The Goldbergs 5.35 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 10.00 Tattoo Fixers 11.00 Rude Tube 12.05 The Inbetweeners 1.15 The IT Crowd 2.15 The Philpotts 2.45 Horton Hears a Who! (2008) 6.25 A Knight's Tale (2001) 9.00 The Two Faces of January (2014) 10.50 Law Abiding Citizen (2009)

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## FILM CHOICES

## MONDAY

**Hannah's Law, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

An orphaned girl grows up to be a bounty hunter under the tutelage of an expert gunslinger. She sets out on a personal mission to bring to justice the outlaws who murdered her parents, aided by a young Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, but the search brings shocking secrets about her past to light. Western, starring Sara Canning. (2012)

## TUESDAY

**Mystery Woman: Game Time, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Amateur sleuth Samantha Kinsey manages to persuade a reclusive author to attend a book-signing event – but ends up having to solve his murder. A shady video-games designer seen near the body seems the likely culprit, but she is convinced he is innocent. Mystery, starring Kellie Martin. (2005)

## WEDNESDAY

**Truth and Lies, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

Two former best friends and current enemies suspect each other of sending anonymous messages that threaten to expose their secrets. However, when they realise neither are behind it, the teenagers team up to investigate the source. Drama, starring Dina Meyer, Emily Tennant and Keenan Tracey. (2015)

**Diamonds Are Forever, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm**

## THURSDAY

**Garage Sale Mystery, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A woman becomes fascinated by a series of burglaries sweeping her home town. She notices some of the stolen items turning up in the garage sales she frequents, and decides to put her keen eye for a bargain to the task of identifying the criminals. Crime drama based on Suzi Weinert's novel, starring Lori Loughlin and Rick Ravanello. (2013)

## FRIDAY

**Diamonds Are Forever, ITV, 11.10pm**

James Bond investigates a diamond-smuggling operation, and discovers that behind the scheme is his insidious arch-enemy Blofeld, who is planning to construct a devastating orbital doomsday weapon powered by the precious stones, which will force world powers to disarm and give him global domination. Spy adventure, starring Sean Connery. (1971)

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## A distressing new case awaits on the moors

**T**W is the new film. It's been said on many occasions, but it does seem to be true.

In the past, actors always aspired to get into movies, but not any more. In fact, these days, they're clamouring to be seen on the small screen, where the best scripts and juiciest characters seem to appear.

Brenda Blethyn has certainly enjoyed cinema success, bagging Oscar nominations for her performances in *Secrets & Lies* and *Little Voice*. But these days she's more likely to be seen solving crimes in *Vera*, which starts a new, four-part run this week.

It's the sixth series based on the best-selling novels by Ann Cleeves; the latest, *The Moth Catcher*, was released earlier this month, and an adaptation of it forms one of the forthcoming episodes.

"I attended the book launch of *The Moth Catcher*, which the third film is adapted from," says Blethyn, "who is now fast friends with Cleeves. "I love it when Ann visits the set. I went to her house to enjoy a fabulous curry made

by Tim, Ann's husband. It was absolutely delicious."

The actress claims she is thrilled by the show's success.

"You always hope the project you are working on is going to be successful," she explains. "I thought the character was very interesting, different, and worthy of a series but of course there is no guarantee. So naturally we were all delighted when the first series was commissioned. And thrilled, each, me it has been re-commissioned."

"And it's always nice to hear from viewers across the world who enjoy *Vera*. There was a lovely review in the Sydney Morning Herald recently. They love her irascible nature and many admire the fact that she commands a position of authority over men! And that the episodes are so well written."

So, what can we expect from the latest run?

"More high quality drama. I love that ITV maintain the production values of the series. The art department is second to none. The stories in the first two episodes are particularly difficult

for Vera to come to terms with. And as viewers have come to expect there are many great Northumberland locations."

Just don't ask her to work out whodunit before she's read the entire script: "Like most thrillers I've kept guessing until the very end. Actually, neither does Vera guess who the culprit is. I'm not an actor who goes to the last page first!"

The series begins with an episode entitled *Dark Road*, in which Vera investigates the murder of 56-year-old grandmother Anne-Marie Richards, whose body has been discovered on the wild and desolate Northumberland moors.

She had a difficult relationship with her family and had recently returned to the area in a bid to reconcile with her two daughters – could one of her relatives have killed her, or will the culprit turn out to be somebody from her colourful past?

A 999 call made by Anne-Marie on the night of her murder, as well as the disturbed state of her cottage, suggests that the killer is close to home.

**Brenda Blethyn stars in *Vera*, Sunday, ITV, 8pm**

## BEST OF THE REST

## MONDAY

**The Undateables: Wedding Bells, Channel 4, 9pm**

The fifth season of this dating show has been enthralling stuff, featuring a range of people who, while they may not have found lasting love, have had their confidence boosted by taking part. The final episode turns its attention to couples who are following in the footsteps of Tourette's sufferer and film-maker Brent Zillwood and model Challis Orme by getting married. Among those featured are Suze, whose Crouzon syndrome has always made him self-conscious, and he's now concerned that his looks may spoil his wedding to Vicky. Martin, meanwhile, suffers from a stammer that he worries may prevent him from proposing to his girlfriend, business coach Jessica. Finally Daniel, who is autistic, wonders if the girl he met at a speed dating event could be the woman of his dreams.

## TUESDAY

**Sugar Free Farm, ITV, 8pm**

Now on day four of the sugar free diet, the celebrities are settling into the farm work but there is a tantrum over chickpeas in the pig field and a heated debate over dinner. Nutritionist Angelique Panagos tries to persuade them of the positives of

a life without sugar, but even after a reality check at the hospital, Mark 'The Beast' Labbett is still reluctant to listen. Will the familiar faces find the going too tough as they do without sweet treats, or will they go the distance? Olivia Colman narrates.

## WEDNESDAY

**Camila's Kids Company: The Inside Story, BBC1, 9pm**

For many years the charity Kids Company was held up as a success story for its work with young people, while charismatic founder Camila Batmanghelidjh was feted by celebrities and politicians alike. However, that began to change in 2015, when it emerged that the charity was on the edge of insolvency and that the government had demanded that Batmanghelidjh stand down as the CEO. Award-winning documentary director Lynn Alaway was following Batmanghelidjh when the story broke, and her documentary depicts the founder's fight to save her charity and resist the pressure to downsize. However, the film takes a dramatic turn when Kids Company is forced to close, leaving staff

reeling, the community devastated – and everyone searching for answers.

## THURSDAY

**Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best?, BBC2, 8pm**

Cats and dogs are Britain's most popular pets – but which is best? If Harry Hill's TV Burp was in charge of answering that question, no doubt the word 'fight' would be mentioned. But rather than throwing them into a ring together, it will be left up to dog-lover Chris Packham and cat fan Liz Bonnin to work out the solution.

In a two-part programme, they travel the country, gathering evidence as they go in an attempt to prove their personal cases. Along the way they meet animals with amazing talents and compare modern canines and felines with their ancient counterparts. They also tackle the ultimate test – Chris takes care of Liz's cat for a week, while she looks after his dog.

**Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm****Keeping Up with the Khans, Channel 4, 9pm**

New series. Documentary exploring the impact of immigration on Page Hall in Sheffield. Each edition focuses on a different community, beginning with the refugees, fleeing war to seek asylum in Britain and battling red tape as they try to start a new life. They include Haider from Lebanon, Libyan Ebab, Cameroonian political dissident Pride and Omar from Sudan, all living together in a house rented by the Home Office. They are all in limbo, unable to work or study while they wait to hear if their request for asylum has been granted.

## FRIDAY

**Celebrity Big Brother: Live Final, Channel 5, 9pm**

It's been a strange few weeks in the Celebrity Big Brother House – arguably the oddest moment was the misunderstanding that led US reality star Tiffany Pollard to think fellow housemate David Gest had died, rather than Angie Bowie's rock legend ex-husband – but after all those tasks and talking at cross purposes, the series is now at an end. Although some of the biggest characters (notably Bowie and Gest) left early due to ill health, we now get to find out who made it to the bitter end, and who the British public have chosen as their winner.

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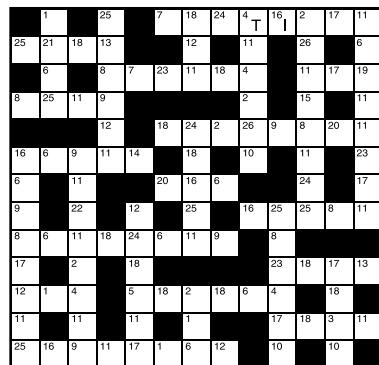
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## BRAIN GYM No.362

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	U	C	3	D	G	M	X	N	A	T	R	B	L	K
14	V	H	Y	F	P	Z	I	E	Q	J	S	W	O	

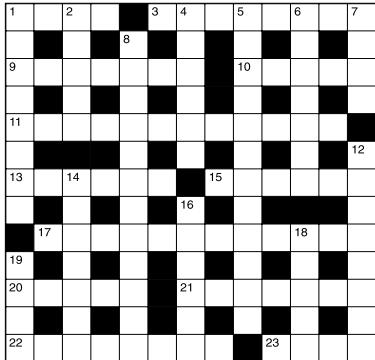
## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- Support on the games field (4)
- Where operations have dramatic results? (8)
- The road comes to an end oddly decorated (7)
- An estimate from a famous author? (5)
- One can reckon 500, but it can be ignored (12)
- Killed with rapid movement to one side (4)
- Try hard in the last river race (6)
- There is one voice in it (6)
- Shop assistant in the secret service? (12)
- Her branch is peaceful (5)
- He's on trial for current 100 consumed (7)
- Score 2 fewer (8)
- In which creating a scene is only to be expected (4)
- Wave husk concoction? (8)
- Annoyed a mongrel (5)
- Concealment of corporal punishment? (6)
- It is made knowingly, one assumes (12)
- Grubs for sore lot (7)
- Killed with rapid movement to one side (4)
- Unsuitable to be in concert, that is with me head in it (12)
- Cover overheads? (7)
- Threaten workers with star performer (6)
- A supporter of art-work (5)
- Abandoned child (4)
- Wrote a book (8)
- Reign (4)
- Address (6)
- Compliment (12)
- Pale (5)
- Established (7)
- Rush (4)



## Quick Clues:

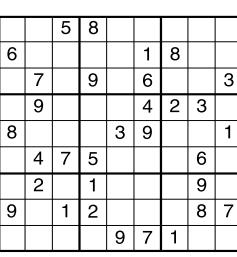
## Across

- Select (4)
- Magician (8)
- A service-book (7)
- Idly tune in concert (8)
- Meanwhile (2,3,7)
- Transfix (6)
- Address (6)
- Information (12)
- Protected (8)
- Seer (7)
- Established (7)
- Paternal (8)
- Rush (4)

## Down

- Fruitful (8)
- Military student (5)
- Rectangular (6)
- Scornful (12)
- Reprise (7)
- Reign (4)
- Information (12)
- Protected (8)
- Legitimate (6)
- Muddle (5)
- Abandoned child (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >  
8 2 6 4 9 1 3 5 7  
1 4 3 8 5 7 6 2 9  
5 7 9 3 2 8 4 1  
7 9 5 1 3 4 2 8 6  
2 8 1 9 6 5 3 4  
3 6 1 2 7 4 9 8 5  
9 5 2 4 1 3 7 8  
3 1 8 7 4 5 9 6 2  
4 6 7 2 8 9 1 3 5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Save our; 7 Souls; 9 Screw; 10 Capital; 12 Sleeping-car; 14 Seaside town; 18 Station; 19 Night; 21 Drill; 22 Heights. Down: 1 Watch; 2 Reveal; 3 Cue; 4 Coping; 5 Almanac; 8 Larvae; 9 Head; 10 13 Length; 15 Sentence; 17 Gull; 20 Scream; 21 DUCHESS. Across: 6 Liberal; 7 Heaven; 8 Vague; 10 Dispose; 12 Degradation; 14 Parenthesis; 18 Contort; 19 Steed; 21 Piece; 22 Sadness. Down: 1 Minor; 2 Refuse; 3 Fad; 4 Despot; 5 Evasion; 8 Fiddler; 11 Writers; 13 Laconic; 15 Entice; 16 Intent; 17 Verse; 20 Ray.

## Thinking space



## Quiz

- What is the Greek word for 'hot'?
- What was the European Recovery Programme of 1948-52 better known as?
- In which American state was Davy Crockett born?
- What was the profession of Mrs. Patrick Campbell, who died in 1940?
- On what part of a suit of armour would you find a beaver?
- What is the dried outer covering of the nutmeg called?
- What is Hans Lippershey credited with having invented in 1608?
- Which jazz trumpeter recorded the album Bitches' Brew?
- Who was Secretary General of the U.N. from 1972-81?
- In which year was the Victoria Cross instituted?

## Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 A soundproof cover fixed over a camera during shooting; 2 Italy and Austria; 3 15th; 4 Clio; 5 DK; 6 1889; 7 Fletcher; 8 Poland; 9 Asa Yoelson; 10 African antelope.

Niner: INTERVALS

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

3847 gives a weapon,  
86239 gives another weapon,  
3657129 gives a third weapon.

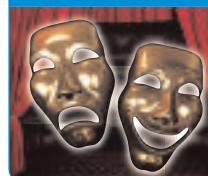
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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## FLYING SCOTSMAN AT SHILDON &amp; BRONTE STEAM

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SAT 23, 30 JUL

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SAT 2 APR, 4, 25 JUN, 16, 23 JUL, 6, 13 AUG

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5 DAYS MON 28 MAR, 18, 25 APR, 16 MAY, 13, 20, 27 JUN

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22, 29 APR

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Mystery jets – a couple of the experience rooms



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Chill out in one of the many relaxation areas

# Bumpy road for this mum-to-be but for relaxation Spa beats them Hall

I HAVEN'T slept for seven months and two days," said my friend candidly. They weren't the words I wanted to hear.

Six months pregnant, the realities of impending motherhood were becoming frighteningly apparent.

Mum to a baby and a toddler, my pal looked beaten; her no-sleep claim was probably on the conservative side so as not to really scare me. Well, I was petrified.

And so there really was only one place for us – a day's escape to Hoar Cross Hall Spa and Hotel for rest and relaxation.

The Staffordshire-based countryside retreat is one of the UK's most decorated spas offering everything from one-off treatments and half-day packages to extended week-long stays (I wish).

The Jacobean-style Grade II-listed build-

ing completed in 1871, is set in immaculately manicured grounds and, on the day we visited, they basked in glorious autumn sunshine.

We enjoyed a swift and friendly check-in at the day spa's reception then headed off to the clean, modern changing rooms.

"You do want to work out, don't you?" asked my friend apprehensively, half-heartedly unpacking a pair of trainers. Er, no, not really." I replied as my pal visibly sighed with relief.

"Why don't we go for a bike ride instead?" she suggested.

And so we bypassed the impressive gym facilities and headed outdoors to use the complimentary bikes, taking a route covering the extensive gardens and country lanes around the property. If, like us, the weather's on your side and you want to enjoy the enviable grounds, there are also tennis courts, boules and croquet. We agreed the hour-long cycle was a good way to work up an appetite for the sumptuous three-course lunch ahead.

**Indulged**  
you fancy. With that in mind, I ordered the chocolate cheesecake and cream, while my pal indulged in the lemon tart.

Exercise done and delicious food consumed, it was time to relax and so we changed into complimentary fluffy robes and slippers. Expert beauticians are on hand to attend to your every need, offering everything from facials, hair removal, massages and manicures to make-up lessons and haircuts in the salon. I was whisked off to one of the many private rooms for a pregnancy-friendly facial and massage. Starting to feel the pains and strains of mid-pregnancy, it was blissful.

We later opted for time in the extensive pool area however, more energetic guests may prefer to take advantage of one of the many fitness classes. We could only have one possible gripe . . . that we weren't able to stay for much longer.

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# Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



**Brave the winter chill to find a great deal**

TRADITIONALLY house buying peaks in the spring but increasingly savvy movers are realising the potential advantages to buying or selling a property in the winter months.

But be cautious: whilst there are good deals to be had it is also important to consider possible pitfalls, as mistakes could be expensive as well as delaying your move.

Remember when arranging viewings, that days are shorter so you will need to visit during the day or at the weekend in order to properly view a house. Winter reveals the true condition of the property as the exterior is bare, enabling you to check the façade for cracks and damp. Inspect the guttering for blockages it might be a good idea to ask to see the loft, so you can ensure there are no roof holes or leakages.

There are fewer houses for sale in the winter but also fewer buyers which means less competition for both parties. How many times did you fall in love with a property during the summer months only to have it snatched away by another buyer? If you are selling, have you found that you have lost buyers who have been tempted by other properties?

Winter sellers tend to need to move so may be willing to accept a deal to enable a quicker exchange. The winter market can often bring a greater sense of commitment from both sides to complete the sale, as people tend to make life changing decisions in the New Year. Use this to your advantage. Also, you may find better mortgage deals as lenders try and attract off-peak customers. Winter moving generally runs more smoothly as lenders and estate agents have fewer customers to process so are able to dedicate more time to you.



indicate a leaky roof for example.

Try to visualise yourself living there. Ignore the décor as much as you can and try to think about whether your furniture will fit into the house and how it will look with your style applied to it. View the property in daylight and be sure to check out the area at other times of the day: a quiet road might be manic during rush hour and a desirable neighbourhood may look different at night.

Be polite but don't feel uncomfortable looking around a house, it is a big investment to make, so it pays to be a little nosy.

Getting the home of your dreams may seem

difficult, but the process can be simplified by carrying out careful research of the market. The very first thing any modern house hunter should do is to log onto the internet where a wealth of information about the local housing market can be found. You should look at the property in local newspapers where you are interested in living. This will give you a good idea of house prices in the area.

Next, take a drive around the areas you are considering. Look at the types of properties that are around there. Take a note of what facilities are nearby and how close any train or bus routes are. Work out how long your

commute might be. Go for a walk around any areas which you like and look out for any 'For Sale' signs, and which estate agents they belong to.

After that, visit the nearest town and have a good look in the estate agents' windows. Take your time to work out a full picture of the market in the area. When you have a mortgage in principle in place, it is then the time to pay a visit or make a phone call to the agent who you think has the strongest presence in the market for the type of home you are looking for.

Arm yourself with any questions which you cannot answer yourself. Tell the estate agent your guide price range, but be flexible – you can look at houses above your budget in a slowing market, as there may be opportunity for negotiation.

Keep in mind the prime principle of property buying: location, location, location. Many argue that a smaller property in a better location will hold its value better and have a stronger resale value, than a larger home in a less desirable area.

Once you have a clear understanding of the market and what it can offer, you will be in a better position to act quickly when your estate agent shows you the right property. You will also be able to better express to the estate agent exactly what you are looking for, which will save time all round.

Remember, choosing a member of the NAEA offers higher standards, protection and a complaints procedure for you. You can search for NAEA members at <http://www.naea.co.uk/find-agent/>

## Key tips when house hunting

BUYING a home – particularly your first – is likely to be the biggest purchase you will ever make, so ensuring you ask the right questions when viewing a property is essential.

The National Association of Estate Agents – the NAEA – can help. It is the UK's leading professional body for estate agency personnel, being part of a group representing 13,000 members who practice across all aspects of property services both in the UK and overseas. And the NAEA has five key tips to remember when viewing a property:

Spending some time thinking about what it is you want from your new home. What kind of property will suit your lifestyle? What location is most desirable and affordable? Do you want a garden? How many bedrooms do you need? Do you want a new or old property? Taking the time to identify what is important to you will save you time in your property search.

Preparation is key. Be ready with a list of questions you want to ask the vendor and the estate agent. For example asking how long the house has been on the market may give you a clue to any potential problems with the property. You might also need to ask; what fixtures and fittings will be left? What are the neighbours like? Why the vendor is moving? What are the parking arrangements? How much does the property cost to run? In order to keep each property you view clear in your mind it is best to take notes along the way.

Be as observant. Look for any potential problems and costs such as dysfunctional guttering, cracks in the interior and exterior walls or brown stains on the ceiling that may



## Families sold

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- Free valuation
- Local area knowledge
- Adverts in local newspapers, online and office window display
- Registered house hunters
- Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

# Hicks Hadley

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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



**BIRMINGHAM**, Orion Building £800 pcm+fees  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a fully furnished apartment in the heart of Birmingham City Centre. This 1 bed modern property overlooking the Mailbox features open plan living with 24 hour concierge service and secure underground parking (permit required), double glazed and electric heating. Viewings highly recommended. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN**, Banners Lane £795 pcm+fees  
An unfurnished 3 bedroom detached family home with gas central heating and off road parking for 3 cars. This great property has entrance porch, hallway with Minton tiled floor, front lounge, modern good size kitchen with French doors leading to the conservatory, utility room, 3 bedrooms and a family bathroom with shower. To the front of the property is off road parking and to the rear a large private garden with raised decking area. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Richmond Street £650 pcm+fees  
A spacious and well presented 3 bedroom semi-detached property in the heart of Halesowen. This lovely family home benefits from gas central heating and double glazing and briefly offers: Entrance hall, dining room, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, landing, 3 good size bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom and an additional w.c. To the front of the property is off road parking for 2 cars and to the rear a tiered garden. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN**, Sanderson Place £925 pcm+fees  
Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN**, Huntington Crescent £925 pcm+fees  
Recently redecorated and carpeted. This huge 3 bedroom town house has had a full redecoration, carpets and boiler. This house will not stay around for long as it's so close to Halesowen Town Centre. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge with stunning views, bathroom with shower, driveway and garage parking, downstairs w.c., small low maintenance rear garden. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Long Lane £825 pcm+fees  
A Victorian style semi-detached house in a quiet, convenient & popular location. This lovely property has recently been refurbished and comprises of: entrance hall with Minton flooring, front dining room, lounge, fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower and rear garden. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Hagley Road £595 pcm+fees  
A superb 2 bedroom flat in central Halesowen. This property has been fully renovated to a very high standard and must be seen to be appreciated. Private entrance with warm, large lounge, stunning kitchen/dining area with appliances, utility room/downstairs w.c., 2 bedrooms, shower room, rear courtyard. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN**, Green Lane £575 pcm+fees  
This stunning 2 bed house will be snapped up! Convenient to the tennis courts and Repton train station, end terrace which can be unfurnished or part furnished to suit. 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs w.c., 2 double bedrooms & beautiful bathroom with separate shower. Private rear garden. Available end March. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN**, Colley Lane £575 pcm+fees  
A superb location close to Merry Hill & Cradley Heath train station. This is a 2 bedroom semi-detached house comprising of: Hallway, entrance porch, fitted kitchen/breakfast room with breakfast bar, stairs, upstairs bathroom with shower, 2 bedrooms & a further carpeted loft room, rear patio with astro turf & roller shutter door to parking area, gas central heating. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN**, Greenhill Road £550 pcm+fees  
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! This fantastic 2 double bedroom end terrace house close to Blackheath Town Centre, M5 J2 and bus links. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen with appliances, utility room and WC, upstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. EPC: C



**KIDDERMINSTER**, Longfellow Green £550 pcm+fees  
Situated in a cul de sac location and not far from Kidderminster Town Centre and the local train station. Featuring 3 bedrooms, kitchen/diner, lounge, family bathroom with shower over bath. Front and rear garden, gas central heated, fully double glazed. EPC: C



**MERRY HILL**, Columbus Avenue £550 pcm+fees  
Ideal for shopping. Centrally located on the Merry Hill Shopping Centre and transport links. This fabulous apartment features modern decoration and can not be missed, and features 2 double bedrooms, dual aspect lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, en-suite to master bedroom, allocated parking. Minimum contract for 12 months. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN**, Southwick Road £530 pcm+fees  
Located minutes from Blackheath Town Centre and a short drive away from the M5 J2. This refurbished 2 bed mid-terrace house features a brand new fitted kitchen, 2 lovely reception rooms, private rear garden, white bathroom suite with shower, 2 double bedrooms, on road parking. EPC: D



**BRIERLEY HILL**, Pheasant Street £525 pcm+fees  
Incredibly presented mid terrace house in close proximity to Merry Hill Centre comprising of: Good size reception room, refitted kitchen/dining space, refitted bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, rear garden, parking area to front. EPC: D



**BRIERLEY GREEN**, Woodgate Lane £525 pcm+fees  
Attractive & improved traditional cottage style terraced house. Large lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to front & large rear garden. EPC: D



**DUDLEY**, Attingham Drive £495 pcm+fees  
A part furnished 2nd floor apartment close to Dudley Town Centre. Featuring an open plan lounge/dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with a shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, alarm, allocated parking. EPC: B



**CRADLEY HEATH**, Petford Street £495 pcm+fees  
Located in a very popular area, within walking distance to local shops and buses, this unfurnished modern semi-detached house, comprising of: 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, cosy lounge, downstairs WC, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: C



**DUDLEY**, Gammage Street £475 pcm+fees  
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property has been refurbished throughout and includes a modern kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, integrated oven. This home features an entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom with shower, rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: F



**NETHERTON**, St Georges Road £395 pcm+fees  
Beautiful refurbishment in a quiet location. This 1st floor apartment features electric storage heating, living room, brand new kitchen, 1 very large double bedroom, brand new house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking space. Viewing recommended to appreciate this nicely proportioned flat. EPC: D



**LYE**, High Street £375 pcm+fees  
Fully refurbished in the centre of Lye. This spacious 2nd floor apartment features a lovely lounge, 1 double bedroom, bathroom, modern and contemporary kitchen/diner, electric heating, double glazing, on road parking. Available now. EPC: TBC



**LYE**, High Street £330 pcm+fees  
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC

## PROPERTY

# This detached house has been refurbished



**AN EXTENDED** detached four-bedroomed family home, 17 Maple Close, Kinver, has been refurbished to high standards.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at £350,000. This accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a WC, a lounge leads to the open-plan kitchen and dining room, a stylish island unit, integrated appliances and bi-folding doors. There is a utility room, three double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and a modern bathroom. On the top floor is a master suite with shower room. Contact (01384) 444645 or [www.thepropertyshop.co.uk](http://www.thepropertyshop.co.uk)



# 1930s home has games room and large garden



A 1930s detached house with lots of character and original features in Dudley Road, Sedgley, comes with a large rear garden and a self-contained games room.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £275,000.

The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, three reception rooms including a lounge with a feature fireplace and French doors opening out to the garden, a large modern fitted kitchen with lemon coloured units and contrasting wood-effect working surfaces and floor tiling, a storage cupboard, WC and garage, a first floor with five bedrooms, en suite and a large family bathroom. It also has an ample driveway for parking.

Contact Trinity Property (01384) 213395 or at [www.trinityproperty.net](http://www.trinityproperty.net) website.



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## Sales & Lettings



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QUINTON

**£675 PCM**



### WHITE ROAD, QUINTON

Traditional family home with UPVC CONSERVATORY to rear & DRIVEWAY to front. 2 good size reception rooms, kitchen & side utility area. 3 bedrooms with FITTED wardrobes & bathroom with WHITE SUITE. GARAGE to rear - extensive garden with PRIVATE aspect. GCH & majority UPVC DG. EPC rating: C

QUINTON

**£185,000**



### MIDDLEFIELD AVENUE, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED family home with NO UPWARD CHAIN in sought after cul-de-sac. Having 2 reception rooms & REFITTED 11ft kitchen. Rear lobby leading to d/s WC & a GARAGE. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED shower room on 1st floor. DRIVEWAY to front & extensive private garden to rear. EPC rating: E

QUINTON

**£179,950**



### PARSONS HILL, OLDBURY

WELL PRESENTED home with DRIVEWAY to front & CONSERVATORY to rear. 12ft lounge with feature fireplace. 12ft kitchen & D/S WC. 3 GOOD SIZE bedrooms & family bathroom. LARGE rear garden with WESTERLY aspect. GCH & majority UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: TBC

BEARWOOD

**£150,000**

BEARWOOD

**£135,000**

BEARWOOD

**£129,950**



### HAMILTON ROAD, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED family home with OFF ROAD PARKING in a popular area handy for WARLEY WOODS. Lounge, 16ft kitchen diner, rear verandah, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, pleasant garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC RATING: TBC

BEARWOOD

**£125,000**

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### ST ALBANS ROAD, SMETHWICK

Terraced property CONVENIENTLY SITUATED FOR LOCAL SHOPPING FACILITIES, requiring internal inspection, with 2 reception rooms, KITCHEN on ground floor, 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS and bathroom UPSTAIRS. Garden to rear. GCH & DG fitted. EPC rating: E.

BEARWOOD

**£102,500**



### TITFORD ROAD, OLDBURY

Deceptively spacious 2 DOUBLE bed modern apartment. Having double glazing and approached via Communal Entrance. OPEN PLAN lounge/kitchen. PARKING SPACE. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating: B.

BEARWOOD

**£80,000**



### MILTON COURT, SMETHWICK

WELL PRESENTED & spacious refinement flat, WITH OUTLOOK over gardens., convenient for Bearwood TOWN CENTRE. 15ft lounge, REFITTED kitchen, 2 GOOD SIZED bedrooms, REFITTED shower room, Communal residents lounge, pleasant communal garden, communal PARKING. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC rating: D.

BEARWOOD

**£69,950**



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 Tel: 07889923896  
 Michael.J.Downing@hotmail.co.uk

### A.S. Painter & Decorator

Interior & Exterior  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
 Cleanliness Assured

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PAINTER & DECORATOR  
 Professional and reliable  
 Fully insured  
 O.A.P Discounts

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0121 561 1881 or 07332 200591

### HALESOWEN DECORATORS

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 OAP DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

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 Residential and Commercial work undertaken  
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**0121 602 0966**

Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesmen to deal with your needs and requirements.

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### DB GARAGE DOORS

- Supply
- Repair
- Up and Over
- Side Hinged
- Made to measure
- FREE Survey & Quotation
- Install
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- Remote Control
- Doors

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### Misted Sealed Units? Black Country Glazing Contact US for a FREE quote!

Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories

'A' Rated Windows as Standard  
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“Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth”

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Whether you require a Traditional or a Contemporary Driveway  
 We Cater for all Budgets

- Block Paving • Walls & Patios • Tarmac
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[WWW.INTERLAYDRIVEWAYS.COM](http://WWW.INTERLAYDRIVEWAYS.COM)

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10% OFF FOR JANUARY

## Fencing

### Fencing & Gates

All Garden Work Undertaken

- Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
- Turfing • Garden Clearance

**NO JOB TOO SMALL**

Manufacturers of all Concrete Products

e.g. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards

All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken

Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)

Call Steve on

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## Oven Cleaning

### For a friendly local independent oven cleaning service

### CLEANOVEN

We clean all types of domestic ovens, cookers, traditional stoves, hobs, extractors and microwaves

Call us for a FREE quote

**Tel: 01384 393168**

Mobile Anytime: 07713 163060

## Electricians

### J S QUALITY ELECTRICAL SERVICES LTD

Fuseboard upgrades / complete rewires / security alarms and lighting / fault finding and repairs / shower replacements and more  
 Domestic / Industrial / Commercial work undertaken  
 Free quotations available Over 20 years' experience

Contact now:  
**0121 531 6884 / 07753 393562**  
[www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk](http://www.jsqualityelectrical.co.uk)  
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Fully guaranteed work  
 Honest reliable service



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All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken  
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 Home rewiring from £800

For a high quality local service call:

0121 531 6884

[mbelectric.co.uk](http://mbelectric.co.uk)



**Local Specialists**

## MOT's

### MOT

### £27.99 with this advert

### FREE RE-TEST

Green Garage, Unit 2a Station Road,  
 (rear of Gold Cue Snooker Club), Blackheath, B65 0LJ

**0121 559 6001**



## Tiling

### I.C.A. TILING SERVICES

Walls, floors, bathrooms, kitchens and conservatories.  
 Ceramic, porcelain, mosaics, slate, marble and all natural stone.

FULL BATHROOM INSTALLATION AVAILABLE

Quality workmanship at competitive prices.

Fully insured. Portfolio available.

For a free quote call Ian on  
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### Floor and Wall Tiling

**Ceramic, Porcelain and Natural Stone**

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E-mail us at...  
 mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk



Post to...  
 Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB

# Local Specialists



## Gardening

### ROWAN TREE & GARDEN SERVICES LTD

\*Tree Surgeon Specialist \*Stump Grinding/Root Removal  
\*Hedges Pruned/Shaped \*Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes  
\*Fencing \*Turfing \*Concreting \*Driveways & Patios  
\*Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation Quotation  
[www.rowangroup.co.uk](http://www.rowangroup.co.uk)  
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AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified.  
Public Liability Insurance (£5 million) All staff C.R.B. Certified  
PART OF THE ROWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES

**LINDOPS LANDSCAPES**  
All Landscape Work Undertaken  
No Job Too Small or Too Big  
**FREE QUOTATIONS**  
All aspects of Tree Surgery,  
Block Paving, Fencing, etc  
Est. 25 Years  
Ex. Botanical Gardener  
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**07583 - 748872**

10% OFF  
Valid until 30th JANUARY 2016

**R.A. GARDEN SERVICES**  
Established 24 years  
Gardening & Landscaping Services  
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting  
• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing  
• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared  
**FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS**  
FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:  
07970 876 638 • 01384 569 148  
[www.ragardenservices.net](http://www.ragardenservices.net)

**R & S Gardens**  
• All garden work undertaken  
• Hedges and lawns cut  
• General tidy and rubbish removed  
• Garden landscaping and fencing work  
Telephone: 07851 323303

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**C.A. Plastering**  
For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering. Quality rendering and tiling.  
No job too small  
**07538 718264**

**CI PLASTERING**  
All aspects of Plastering, Dry Lining, Skimming and Rendering, Artex Removed  
Insurance work undertaken  
Call for free estimates  
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**DH PLASTERERS**  
FROM boarding, skimming, patching TO complete rooms  
GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES  
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### Nick's Plastering Services

ALL TYPES OF PLASTERING WORK UNDERTAKEN  
Advanced City and Guilds Qualified  
OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
Low Prices  
FREE QUOTES

0121 559 4818  
07930 525677

### Local Specialists

## Plumbing & Heating

WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST

### Gasteck Solutions

WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST

### WORCESTER accredited installer

WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST

WORCESTER BOSCH

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

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## FreeAds

**IT'S FREE IT'S EASY**

For items up to £250

### VISIT:

[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

Simply press the free ad icon.  
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[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

**In person**  
At your local Express & Star Office.  
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm  
Monday - Friday for the next day's  
advertisement or also before 3.00pm  
Friday for Monday's advertisement.

### funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING (Blackheath) Ltd**

Independent family run Funeral Directors

24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794

[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

### lost & found



#### MISSING FROM WEST BROMWICH

Mia, short haired ginger tortoiseshell, cream patch under chin / right front paw, microchipped, about 2 1/2 years old.

£100 reward for safe return.

Call 0800 4 320 340,

quoting reference 241823.

**1 Family**

**FREE VALENTINE'S MESSAGE**  
Book your free lineage message online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk using discount code V100 or simply fill in the coupon in the Express & Star. You can still place a boxed illustrated message for £10.00 by completing the coupon or by calling 01902 317878.

### elderly & disabled

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350 can deliver, servicing available. Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384 255019 / 07831 246292.

**STERLING LITTLE STAR** 4-wheel scooter, charger, basket, foldable Superb; £200. 07788 833252.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2 Leisure Time**

### caravans wanted

**WANTED**  
CARAVAN WANTED  
Can pick up asap.  
Caravan wanted.  
Call me on 07717 090817.

### caravans / motorhomes

**ADRIA** 2+4 berth caravan, good condition, ready to go, £1,000 o.n.o 07486 211435.

### LUXURY LOG CABIN

Located in Bridgnorth, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, secure electric gated private site, 12 months licence. £900. 0775610823



### STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE

Overlooking the Malvern Hills, just 1 hour from Birmingham. Peaceful, 5 star park and dog friendly. Fishing ponds, walks and 12 months open season.

£14,000. 07908 732586.

### WILLERBY STATIC CARAVAN

Immaculate condition both inside and out, 38ft x 12 ft, 2 beds, main en suite with shower, sleeps six. PVC decking with lights, satellite TV, sea and mountain views, situated at Brynnewn, Borth. All 2016 site fees paid.

£16,995. 07831 414009

### fishing

**FISHING TACKLE WANTED** anything considered. New. Old. 01902 754011 or 07931 568716

### jumble sales / fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR** Sunday 31st January

KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE DY7 6ER 10.30am - 4pm Tel: 01384 894464

### music shop

**TRUSTWORTHY MUSICIAN** Seeks rehearsal room lock up to share. 07817 681495.

### FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY For items upto £250. Online at [bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

### what's on

### antique fairs

**PENKIRDE ANTIQUES AND** collectors market. Thursday 4th February Free entry. Free parking. Open from 9am ST19 5AP Pitches available. tel: 0794727194

### markets

**BESCOT SUNDAY MARKET OPEN EVERY SUNDAY** Banks's Stadium, Walsall FC WS1 4SA, FREE PARKING, J9 M6 07889 975071 All hard standing

### mind, body & soul

### massage

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A unique fusion of

Swedish, Thai & Japanese massage

with Aromatherapy & Tai Chi relaxation.

Call 07525 126700

See us on [www.youtimetherapy.co.uk](http://www.youtimetherapy.co.uk) or

Facebook YouTime Spa

## 3 Home & Services

### furniture

**HSU LYNTON** Catch Rocking Chair. Boucle wine. Margarita. Excellent Condition. £150. 07793 632525

**PINK FULL RECLINER** Chair, fully functioning. No rips/tears. Excellent condition. £50. 07788 833252

**THREE SEATER AND TWO SEATER SETTEE** Belgium manufacturer, oak frame, 4 dron on cushions, beige leather. Excellent condition. £400. 07746 143950.

**TWO X 2 modern, red leather sofa** sets. Very good condition. £250 o.n.o. 01902 840480.

### household appliances

**Electric Cookers £69**

**Gas Cookers £89**

**Washing Machines £79**

**Fridge Freezers £89**

01902 420030 or 07966 673960

### in your garden

**KUBOTA G18 diesel ride on mower, hydro. tip, excellent condition, £4,250. 07792 746976.**

### items wanted

All gold 9ct up to £300 per ounce

**CASH PAID TODAY**

A GENUINE LADY BUYER

All Beswick • Doulton • Worcester

Moortown • Lladro • Old coins

• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY

• Old toys • Clocks • Paintings

• ALL SILVER • ALL Oriental Items

Pre '47 silver coins • All war medals etc

**ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING**

**HOUSE CLEARANCES**

01922 495066 or 07971 78206

READERS ARE ADVISED

To carefully consider all of their options

before agreeing to the sale of any of

their items.

### A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

Any gauge or age

Horby • Bacham • Bowmans

• Roundhouse • Graham • Farish

/ any live steam. Also Die Cast,

Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

01384 836219/07891 713547.

thertrainmaster67@hotmail.com

### air rifles

**AIR RIFLES, SHOT GUNS, Antique**

guns, taxidermy, big bore guns,

traps etc wanted. 07968 624202

**BRITISH COINS AND MEDALS**

wanted by private collector.

Please contact 01902 676540.

### FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES

Tickets and other sports memorabilia.

Top prices paid for the right item.

Call Paul on 01543 251743.

### massage

### PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195

Servicing and Repairs

12 Months Warranty

All areas covered

All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

### alarms/security

### building services

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**

Over 35 years experience in the industry.

All aspects of building work including:

Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,

driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered. See us on Rated People.

01902 579992 / 07837 994465

### carpet & upholstery cleaning

### A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

OAP discount. Recession Prices.

Unbeatable Value. Rooms cleaned from £10

Call Paul 07870 341089

### fencing

**PORWAY FENCING** Special Offer on 10 bays. £666. 0121 5315250 porwayfencing.com

### flooring

### UNEVEN FLOOR?

Specialist FLOOR REPAIRS AND

PREPARING FLOORS FOR ANY

FLOORCOVERING, TILE, ETC

FREE ADVICE & ESTIMATES

MARK 07770 686 444

### gas fitting

### READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work

is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas

Safety Installation and Use

Regulations 1998 to carry out

gas work in the UK without

being on the Gas Safe Register.

### house clearances

### A ABSOLUTE BEST CASH PRICE PAID

for house clearances and bereavements.

Also removals undertaken.

All rubbish removed

Carrers licence held

07852 172641 / 07710 360327

### painters / decorators

C.C. PAINTING & DECORATING

best quotes around. OAP 20% off.

07874 814922 / 01902 632851

MTK PAINTER & DECORATOR-

Competitive quotes. OAP discounts

01384 340930 / 07825 558940.

### removals

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items,

flat/house removals/clearances. Fast,

friendly & reliable service. Monday to Saturday, 6 day service. Call:

0121 229 9974 or 07815 043724

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### and become one of hundreds of customers

### who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.

www.youtimetherapy.co.uk

www.facebook.com/YouTimeSpa

www.youtime.co.uk

www.youtime.co.uk</

## 4

## Pets &amp; Animals

## equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

## guns &amp; dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

## pets corner

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**BINKS** Cheeky, black, 7 month old neutered male cat, looking for a permanent home.  
07847 360784.

**JACK RUSSELL** cross chihuahua, vet checked, small, 2 bitches, mom and dad can see.  
01384 233910.

**LOTTIE** Very small staffie, spayed girl, very good on and off lead, good with other dogs, Children and other adults.  
Lottie came into rescue as her last elderly owner couldn't take care of her properly.  
Call Martin at Dog Samaritans 01384 241034.  
Lottie is now in a Foster home in the Dudley area.

## 5

## Business &amp; Farming

## business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## commercial premises sale / let

**BUNGALOW/LARGE YARD**, 7 containers, two workshops with ramps, £260.000. 07836 780190.

## 6

## Property

## accommodation to let

**A TWO BED FLAT** of Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

**A TWO BED FLAT** of Tettenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking, £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Consumer Protection Act 1986, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**RECENTLY REFURBISHED** 1 and 2 bed flats, Netherton, close to Merry Hill, DSS welcome. Call 01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

## 4 Pets &amp; Animals

**properties wanted**

**WE PAY 100% of purchase price** EVERY TIME!

**We buy any house**

- FAMILY BUSINESS
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- WE ALSO BUY LAND

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**CASH NOW**

**WE CAN BEAT ANY PRICE**

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- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossession stopped

**we can buy your house in**

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**wolverhampton properties**

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

## Houses/Land Required

**Ring Paul 24/7 local on  
07870 341 089**

**Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901  
[www.homecashbuyer.co.uk](http://www.homecashbuyer.co.uk)**

## mobile homes



### LUXURY MOBILE HOME

On small site for the over 50s in Worcestershire, 2 bed, 2 bath, on end plot with large garden and decking area, immaculate throughout, many extras.

£35,000.

Telephone 07450 861457 or 07931 602140.

## houses for sale

**STOKE STUDENT HOUSE OPPOSITE UNIVERSITY.**  
3-4 beds.  
Written offers.  
View Sunday, January 31.  
9.30am to 11.30am.  
07852 115546.

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## 7 Jobs

**full time - general**



## CONTINU PLUS ACADEMY

Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7FB

The Continu Plus Academy is an innovative and exciting Alternative Provision Secondary Free School based in Kidderminster. Our Academy is now in its third year, and has just achieved a Good grading in all categories at Ofsted. We will soon be Outstanding. The CPA works with excluded and pre-excluded students in the Wyre Forest, Hagley and Dudley areas. We are building a highly skilled and inspirational staff with the drive and ambition to profoundly impact on the life chances of our students. We have the following vacancies:

**Teacher of Design Technology**  
(Resistant Materials & Food Technology) Mainscale.  
Full time, permanent post to start as soon as possible  
Closing date: Tuesday 26 January 2016

**CITE (Customised Individual Therapeutic Education Team).**

**Senior Learning Coach**

Temporary position until end of the academic year  
Scale 4.20: £19048, 37 hours/wk, full year

**Learning Coach**

Temporary position until end of academic year  
Scale 2: £11947, 37 hours/wk, term time only

Closing date: Monday 1 February 2016

We are building a highly skilled and inspirational staff, with the drive and ambition to profoundly impact on the life chances of our students. The successful applicants will need to be determined, resilient, resoundingly positive and passionate about their and our educational ethos.

To learn more about these vacancies please visit [www.continuplus.org.uk](http://www.continuplus.org.uk) or contact Mrs J Toyne on 01562 822463 and je64@cpa.worcs.sch.uk

Continu Plus Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

## Express & Star STAR

## NIGHT SECURITY OFFICER

The successful applicant will be responsible for the security of the building and site during out of hours working. There is a rotating shift pattern in operation with other officers and the position involves both weekend and bank holiday working.

The successful applicant is likely to have held a similar position, will have excellent communication skills and possess the initiative and confidence to deal with any situation that may arise.

If you are interested in applying for this role please send your full CV and cover letter to:

HR DEPARTMENT  
MIDLAND NEWS ASSOCIATION  
51 - 53 QUEEN STREET  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
WV1 1ES  
E-MAIL: [HR@MNAMEDIA.CO.UK](mailto:HR@MNAMEDIA.CO.UK)

Closing date: 31st January, 2016

## HOME CARE WORKERS

£7.20/£7.52 p/hour

### alternative care

## RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY

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between 10.00am and 7.00pm at Alternative Care, Suite 1, Parkside House, Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, B65 0LG (above the Lidl Store in Rowley Regis)

We work in Halesowen, Rowley Regis and surrounding areas, helping vulnerable people to remain independent and stay in their own homes, full and part time hours are available. Some weekend work will be included. Full drivers license and own transport are essential. Alternatively, call us on 0121 561 4072 for an application pack or to find out more.

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[www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk](http://www.classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk)

2 Call our Classified sales team  
on 01902 317 878

3 Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit:  
[bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk](http://bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk)

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**Star Employment services**

# 40 Classified Ads

## 8 Motoring

### cars over £1500

AUDI A3 1.9TDI 2003, MoT June, very good condition, £1,900 o.n.o.

AUDI A4 18T, 2003, low mileage for year. Service history, MoT'd, Immaculate condition, inside and out, £1,800 o.n.o. 07814 667837.

### SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.

Packages start from as little as

**£21.00 for 6 nights**

Plus

6 nights free if you do not sell.

### CALL

01902 317878

### JAGUAR S TYPE

2.7 DIESEL  
05 plate, Goodwood green, full leather, 10 months MoT, Sat Nav, 6 track CD. Very good condition.

£2,500.

Telephone 01902 831158.

KIA RIO DOMINO, 2010, 35,600 miles, black, electric windows, air con, fsh, long MoT, immaculate, bargain £3,400. 07756 624703.

MITSUBISHI LANCER 2 LITRE SPORTS ESTATE 2006, 65,000 miles, MoT January 2012, dark blue, excellent condition.

£1,800.00.

01902 893474 /

07856 898558.



### TOYOTA YARIS TSPORT

2011, 31,964 miles, grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, navigation system.

£5,500.

07815 776523.

VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI 1400CC 2004, 56,000 miles, good condition, MoT'd, £2,000 o.n.o. 07956 438279.



VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ELITE 2014, 30k, auto, Est. 2.0CDTi 195bhp bi-turbo, dealer fsh, warranty. HTD electric mem seats, Sat Nav, DAB, electric tailgate. 19ins alloys. BiXenon, LED run lights, sensors, immaculate.

£1,250.

07971 365912.

### cars under £1500

#### ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisers must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN C4 VTS 06 reg. Petrol, silver, 3-dr, 99,000 miles, 8 months MoT. Good condition. £895. Telephone 07787 410300.

DAEWOO LONAS 1.4 1998, red, 43K miles. MoT May, one previous owner. £395. 07938 236153.

FORD FOCUS LX 1.8, W reg, 5dr, petrol, black, six months MoT. £350. 07552 343585.

FORD FOCUS LX, W reg, 5 door, 796cc, petrol, black, six months MoT, £425. 07512 044868.

FORD MONDEO 2 LITRE LX 2002 Green, A/C, CD, alloys, very good condition, MoT June 16, just serviced, 2 owners, 49,000 genuine miles.

£1,350.00.

07887 593617.

FORD MONDEO 2003, 2 Litre Ghia, 131k, MoT Sept, good condition, £1,250. Space needed. 07722 944706.

FORD MONDEO MK3, 51 plate, diesel, long MoT, black, quick sale £295. 01902 497406.

GRAND VOYAGER 2002, 2.5 Diesel, Manual, good condition for year, 15,000 miles, MoT till June, £1,275. o.n.o. 07976 600110.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4, 2002, 73,000 miles, black, electric windows, air bag, electric mirror, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, £1,295. 07792 356203.

KIA PICANTO 1.0GS 5dr, 54 reg, 77k, red, 12 months MoT, good condition, £1,000 new driver, £800. 01902 847105.

NISSAN MICRA, 05, Full MoT, Engine 99,000 miles. Very good condition. £1,050. 01384 251328 or 07972 169554.

PEUGEOT 206 LOOK, 2007, 1360cc, 44,700 miles, red, abs, metallic paint, pas, CD, very good condition, £1,199. 07879 403302.

RENAULT MODUS 1.5DCI PRIVILEGE, 2006, reg, 3 owners, 10,000 miles, fsh, 11 months MoT, good tyres all round, recent service and MoT, £950.

01902 753118: 07775 901378.

SABAR FORESTER, All Weather, silver, 03 reg, long MoT, fsh, lady owner, tidy car, £250. 01902 791206, after 5pm.

TOYOTA LUCIDA People, Carrier, Moi, Green, N42 HAB, £450. 07779 740410/07505 703217.

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# New general manager

## Commercial feature

**Chris Avery, the new general manager at Halesowen Motor House has been settling into his new job over the last seven weeks. This experienced general manager is now looking to grow the popular dealership which currently offers both Vauxhall and Suzuki franchises at its Halesowen site on Dudley Road.**



Chris has over 23-years of experience in the motor trade having initially started work as an accountant at a Vauxhall dealership.

After 13 years in accountancy, Chris became a general manager for a Renault/Nissan dealership serving nine years in this role before moving to a Lookers Vauxhall dealer in 2014.

He now heads up the Halesowen operation for Motor House and is keen to deliver the very best customer experience for Halesowen Motor House customers.

It is exciting times for both Vauxhall and Suzuki, with Vauxhall sporting the new Astra and Suzuki gearing up for their latest association with the popular TV entertainers Ant and Dec.

### Sponsor

Suzuki is the proud new sponsor of Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway and together they will be bringing a whole new slant on Saturday night television entertainment.

The seventh-generation version of Vauxhall's Astra family hatch is even better equipped, more efficient and more spacious than its predecessor; while in some cases actually costing less than it did before. Think that sounds promising?

Wait until you get behind the wheel of this fantastic new car and experience just what a top modern family hatch really should feel like.

At Halesowen Motor House you'll find all the departments that you expect at a top modern dealership – new and used car sales, service and repair as well as a busy parts and accessories department. Together they will satisfy all your motoring needs.



**At Halesowen Motor House you'll find all the departments that you now expect at a top modern dealership**

At the dealership, staff know that having a car goes a long way in giving people the freedom to do all the things they want to do.

Under the Motability scheme Halesowen Motor House offers the broadest variety of vehicles with the widest range of specifications to suit every need.

If you are a Motability customer, ask to speak to Halesowen Motor House's Motability specialists, who will be only too happy to explain the scheme to you and answer any of your questions.

There is a definite buzz around Halesowen Motor House these days. Why not experience it for yourself?

Call in and take a look at the wide range of new and used models currently available.

You can find Halesowen Motor House on Dudley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3NH.

Or for further information, telephone 0121 503 0001.

You can also visit the website at [www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk](http://www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk)

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#### Dudley Motor Company

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# Jeep is plugging the gap

By Graham Breeze

**The Renegade is probably Jeep's bravest move yet as the company goes all out to tackle a crowded small SUV sector.**

And size is the first thing you notice about the Renegade, because it's much smaller than anything Jeep has made before, with bosses recognising a gap for a true four-wheel drive vehicle in the busy crossover market.

There's an immediate similarity to Skoda's Yeti thanks to the boxy shape but the Renegade is chunkier, is made of stronger stuff and is clearly recognisable as a Jeep with its circular headlights and famous grille.

Renegade is the first Fiat Chrysler Automobiles car to be jointly developed by Italian and American engineers and the first Jeep to be built in Europe but sold in the USA. It is also the first small SUV to feature rear axle disconnect.

The Renegade will stand out in any company but for those who see personalisation as a key option it is available in 11 colours with six wheel designs. There are six powertrain combinations, two MultiAir II petrol engines, a pair of MultiJet II turbo diesels and a 1.6-litre eTorque petrol.

There are also five and six-speed manual gearboxes, the Dual Dry Clutch Transmission and the nine-speed automatic gearbox. Available with two or four-wheel drive the Renegade boasts two new, advanced 4x4 systems: Jeep Active Drive and Jeep Active Drive Low.

On test was the 2.0 Multijet Longitude 140hp 6-speed manual model with a 4x4 system supplying just the right amount of torque for any

driving situation and one of four models in the range.

The rear axle disconnect system seamlessly switches between two and four-wheel-drive to guarantee traction and keep running costs to a minimum.

There's also a choice of driving settings to suit individual preferences.

The test model had a surprising top speed of 113mph and got me to 62mph in 9.5seconds while averaging 55.4mpg on the combined cycle. For such a beast it was surprising that CO<sub>2</sub> emission levels were only 134 g/km.

## Comforting

You expect a Jeep to sound a bit on the noisy side, and the Renegade didn't disappoint, and there's something comforting about the roar of the engine on this model which means you are prepared to put up with the sound.

For an on-the-road price of £23,395 you can expect 17" aluminium wheels, LED lighting, roof rails, body coloured door mirrors and handles, trailer sway damping, All speed traction control, a security alarm and a stop/start system.

The test car came with a special paint job, spare tyre, parking sensors, panoramic sunroof, heated front seats and steering wheel and a function pack which included keyless entry, height adjustable cargo floor, under seat storage and electrically folding door mirrors - all pushing the price up to £26,195.

You could also add an array of advanced safety features including Forward Collision Warning Plus with Crash Mitigation which automatically prevents or reduces the impact in low-speed shunts; ParkSense Parallel and Perpendicular Park Assist that automatically parks the car; LaneSense™ Lane Departure Warning Plus; and Adaptive Cruise Control.



The Renegade leaves the rest of the class in its trail once you step inside. The high seating position means there's great vision all-round and if I was buying one the panoramic sunroof would be a must at £1,100 extra.

The Renegade has Jeep's Uconnect system which provides an interface between vehicle occupants and communication, entertainment and 5" navigation touchscreen with voice control. Impressively the Uconnect system enables handsfree calls from Bluetooth phones while compatible smartphones can send from

a list of 18 pre-defined text messages. The system also announces the receipt of a message, identifies the sender and 'reads' the message aloud.

Music can be streamed wirelessly while MP3 players can be connected to the premium media hub via the standard auxiliary jack or USB port and charged. The AM/FM DAB radio can be controlled by voice commands.

The Renegade also has a full-colour instrument cluster which sits in front of the driver, displaying information using a combination of

graphics and text. The sort of impressive technology you don't normally associate with Jeep.

It's a brave step by Jeep to drop a vehicle into the SUV sector and the company is likely to attract a lot of buyers unable to afford to get into the big four-wheel-drive market.

Jeep sales are booming in America and Europe with Renegade popular in Italy, France and Austria as has picked up awards in the UK, Italy, France and Spain.

Renegade has the looks and the performance to be a big player in the SUV sector.



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	08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Grain Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>
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	10/10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V (100) Exclusive 5dr Automatic (AC) *ONLY 27480 miles* Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£5495 / £28 Per Week</b>
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Finance example: 05/05 Nissan X-trail 2.2 dCi, Cash Price £3495, Deposit 300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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## Upton away for a push towards title class

UNBEATEN Pauly Upton will return to action in Walsall next month – and he's keen to push towards title class.

The Ricky Hatton-trained super-welterweight will face Brighton's experienced Kevin McCauley on February 19 as part of his preparations for a potential Irish title tilt in the spring.

"It's time for me to push on and start getting some belts around my waist," the 27-year-old said. "I'm going to use it to sharpen up my skills before going after the Irish title."

"McCauley is as tough as old boots so he's ideal. Afterwards I think I'll be ready to move up to ten-rounders and show people what I can really do."

Although born in London, Upton comes from proud Irish stock and spent much of his childhood in Dublin and Belfast. He followed in his grandfather's footsteps by boxing for Ireland as an amateur.

"My whole family is Irish so it's always been my goal to win the Irish title," he said.

The Walsall Town Hall show is a co-promotion between Hatton Promotions and Black Country Boxing, headlined by Halesowen's Lennox Clarke in an eight rounder with Harlow's Richard Horton.

Wednesday's Sam Evans is back in action with Nantwich's Nathan Gorman and Market Harborough's Reuben Arrowsmith also on the undercard, alongside West Bromwich heavyweight Matt Gordon, highly-rated Swadlincote prospect Zach Parker, Old Hill's stylish Manny 'Pac Man' Zaber, Stoke's Kieran McLaren and Birmingham puncher Luke Heron (Walker).

## Heathens are plotting their own stadium

CRADLEY insist they are willing to listen to anybody who may be able to help in their quest to find land for a stadium of their own.

The Heathens have announced they will host their first meeting back at Monmore Green on Easter Monday, March 28. However, club bosses remain desperate to achieve their goal of finding the club a home track of their own within the area.

With their search for a suitable plot of land ongoing, club director Nigel Pearson says any individuals or businesses who may have land available should get in touch.

Fewer than 30 tickets remain for the Heathens' Season Launch Night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club, at 8pm on Monday, March 21. They are £5 from the club shop in Cradley Heath Market or at cradleyheathens.co.uk via PayPal.

# Stour pay penalty for indiscipline



Full back Joe Bridger takes the ball into contact

Preston Grasshoppers 29  
Stourbridge 18

DESPITE outscoring their opponents by three tries to two Stour left Lightfoot Green empty-handed, victims of their own indiscipline which gifted Preston full-back Sean Taylor five penalty goals.

Stour started briskly, an early penalty by outside-half Rod Petty followed by a try from Nathan Bressington following some neat footwork.

But their inability to hold onto

possession brought Stour under pressure, Preston capitalising when no.8 Alastair Murray scored from the back of a driving maul.

Repeat offending saw Stour second row Robbie Hurrell take a spell in the sin-bin and he was joined soon after by centre Joe Heatley as Taylor's boot kicked Preston to 22-8 lead by the hour mark.

Stour hit back with a short-range try by scrum half Toby Handley.

Sensing their opponents starting to tire and boosted by the fresh legs

of their subs bench, Stour upped the tempo, but disaster struck when an unpushed high hit on replacement hooker Billy Harding saw the ball go loose near Stour's 22. It was hacked through and with the cover wrong-footed Murray pounced to score his second try for the hosts.

Stour managed a consolation try from a rolling maul for replacement Connor Nicholls.

This weekend, Stourbridge host Leicester Lions at Stourton Park, kick off at 3pm.

## Tough task lies ahead after a rare home defeat

**Old Hales 1 Loughborough Tn 3**

OLD Halesians Hockey Club Men's 1st XI were beaten for only the second time at home this season, going down 3-1 to promotion chasing Loughborough Town.

Hales, who this time last season were battling relegation, knew a victory would keep them in with the pack chasing for second place. However, a lack of composure on the ball was to cost them dearly.

The visitors started very brightly with high intensity and found themselves 1-0 up when a free flowing move found a forward on the back post who was able to convert despite the efforts of captain Paul Woodall on the line.

As the half went on, Hales grew into the game and found themselves level by the break. Man of the match Paul Harrold made a surging run down the middle into the attacking D, and his deflected pass rebounded off the post to Tom Bulteel, who tapped home.

The visitors were much more clinical in the second half. A quick snapshot came through players to beat unskilled keeper Steve Charlton at his near post and a penalty flick late in the half saw Loughborough extend their lead.

Hales face a double-header this weekend, hosting relegation-threatened Sikh Union Nottingham on Saturday, before facing free-scoring promotion hopefuls Barton on Sunday.

The Ladies 1sts lost 2-0 to promotion-chasing Droitwich, the Mens 3rd XI lost 11-0 to table-topping Shrewsbury and the Mens 5th XI were beaten 2-1 by Lichfield. The Mens 2nds beat Old Silhillians 4-2, and the Mens 4th XI beat Olton and West Warwick 5-0.

# Gym project will be tribute to Steve

**PRIORY Park Boxing Club has vowed to win its latest battle so it can pay a fitting tribute to vice-chairman Steve Gough.**

The Dudley-based club is striving to finish the refurbishment of its Priory Road base and chairman Paul Gough is determined to see the job through in honour of his cousin Steve, who recently died.

Aged 55, Steve played a crucial role alongside Paul in the club's impressive growth over the past two decades.

The duo forged a strong bond both inside and outside the ring and an emotional Paul paid a heartfelt tribute to a man who was the life and soul of the club.

"He was just a really likeable guy," said Paul. "We weren't like cousins, we were more like brothers."

"My wife Georgina and Steve's wife Tracey are sisters. He actually got Georgina and myself together."

"The whole family is devastated. This is a massive shock. He had been ill but he was on the mend. He was getting better."

### Void

"On the Wednesday at training he was great, he was laughing and joking with all the lads. He was a proper joker. He loved playing practical jokes on the lads."

"There is a massive void at the club that can never be filled. It just makes everyone more determined to crack on and ensure the club keeps moving in the right direction."

"It makes us more determined now to get the gym finished."

"Then when we open the gym we can honour his name and have a memorial in there for him, so that he will always be remembered for all the years he put in."

Steve was a well-known figure on the local boxing scene and messages of support have been flooding in.

"The response has been amazing," said Paul. "The support from people and the offers of help have been brilliant. I am sure he will have a massive turnout at his funeral."

"We started off with one boxer and it just kept get-



Priory Park's Paul Gough, left, has paid tribute to his late cousin Steve

The club have enjoyed numerous successes down the years after the Goughs took charge.

Paul said: "Steve got into boxing through me, because I used to box. He had always liked the sport but his background was rugby. He was a very good player and turned down the chance of a contract with St Helens when he left school because he didn't want to leave the area.

"We started off with one boxer and it just kept get-

ting bigger and bigger. I concentrated on the training and he ran the gym and took care of all the organisation. He was the head of the committee really."

"We have had a lot of success over the years and Steve made that possible."

Steve is survived by widow Tracey and son Mitchell.

The funeral will take place at Gornal Crematorium at 12.20pm on Tuesday, February 2. Family flowers only. Donations to Priory Park Boxing Club.

## Look Hughes won another darts crown

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes retained his BDO Romanian Classic title on his return to competitive darts after the World Championship.

The Lakeside 2016 semi-finalist went all of the way at the Intercontinental Hotel in Bucharest to claim his sixth BDO ranking title.

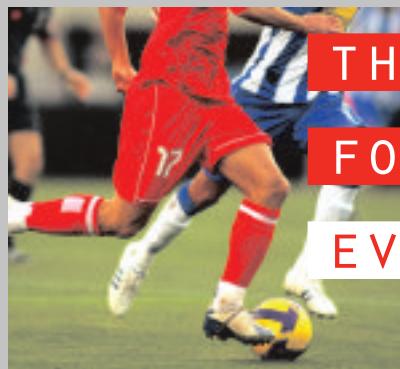
Hughes was imperious in the final, dropping just a leg in a 6-1 victory over Alan Bell.

'Yozza' snapped into gear from the semi-finals, after opening his challenge with a 4-0 whitewash of Mamix de Beer.

The 29-year-old then overcame another worlds semi-finalist, Chris Mason, a fellow West Midlands resident, 4-1.

Matt Dickinson was beaten 4-2 to set up a semi-final against Krzysztof Ratajski, who the Black Country thrower beat 5-1.

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## Setback at the hands of bogey side

### Barwell 3 Stourbridge 1

STOURBRIDGE suffered a severe setback towards their play-off prospects as they were well-beaten at bogey side Barwell – despite taking a 32nd minute lead through Karl Hawley's 21st goal of the season.

The Leicestershire side were level two minutes from half-time when Stourbridge failed to clear effectively from a corner allowing Alex Tompkinson to retrieve the ball and then whip in a wind assisted cross that Charlie Price was unable to keep out.

Half-time substitute Luke Barlone fired Barwell in front and the hosts sealed the points on 78 minutes through Brady Hickey.

### Stourbridge 3 Skelmersdale 1

THE Glassboys had on Saturday stepped up their promotion push with a convincing win over Skelmersdale despite being reduced to 10 men for most of the second half.

On 26 minutes, the visitors' Max Hazeing beat Stourbridge's offside trap before cleverly lobbing home over advancing Glassboys goalkeeper Charlie Price.

Stourbridge soon hit back with two goals in as many minutes. Karl Hawley levelled on 34 minutes with a superbly taken goal, latching onto a pass from Matt Dodd with his back to goal and turning two Skelmersdale defenders before firing into the roof of the net.

Two minutes later, they went ahead as Dodd slotted home.

The Glassboys were a man down after Dodd was sent off for a late challenge on Strickland after 56 minutes.

But Stourbridge continued to impress with 10 men and increased the lead on 62 minutes. Central defender Dan Scarr climbed highest to a Leon Broadhurst free kick and headed home.

## Whiley teams up for fresh chance after singles exit

WHEELCHAIR tennis player Jordanne Whiley will have concentrate on the women's doubles with her partner Lucy Shuker after both bowed out of the women's singles at the Australian Open.

World No.5 Whiley, from Halesowen, held an early lead against Dutchwoman Marjolein Buis before Buis took the first set tie-break.

Whiley clinched the second set and held a narrow lead midway through the decider, but Buis eventually edged the contest 7-6(2) 4-6 6-4.

Shuker pushed world No.1 and reigning champion Jiske Griffioen hard in the first set of their quarter-final, but despite the British No.2 and world No.7 breaking her opponent's serve twice in the second set, Griffioen won 7-5 6-2.

Shuker and Whiley were set to meet Griffioen and her countrywoman Aniek van Koot in the women's doubles semi-finals today (Thursday).

"I'm very disappointed with the result and the way I played," Whiley said. "I just didn't take my chances."

"I've been trying out some new stuff out here so I can take some positives."

## Hockey men taste rare home defeat

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## Fitting tribute to boxing's Steve

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## Aston vows to come back fighting



Ryan Aston is floored by Ahmet Paterson

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston vowed to come back fighting after his step up in class went up in smoke on Friday night, writes Craig Birch.

Aston's dreams of lifting the IBF International light middleweight title live on BoxNation were destroyed in six rounds by the classy Ahmet Paterson.

Their 12-round bout only went half of the distance, with Aston down once in the fifth and twice in the sixth, with the first knockout of the sixth ruled a low blow.

It's now back to the drawing board for the 24-year-old, who has lost all three of his major

### Boxing

title shots. This belt, which came with a top 15 world ranking with the IBF, followed unsuccessful attempts for the Midlands crown at light middle and middleweight.

"Tank" had also dedicated the fight to Steve Gough, the late vice-president of Priory Park Boxing Club, where he was an amateur and now fights out of the pro section.

Aston said: "I need to learn from this and move on. This was in memory of Steve. It wasn't the result he would've wanted, but I'll be back."

## Russell and Giles help Hagley home

Pedmore (117-1) beat Enville 'B' (99 all out) by 18 runs

PEDMORE, in their first game of the 2016 WCB Indoor Cricket campaign, fielded a strong side on paper which may account for them being put in.

The openers showed signs of rustiness, especially Dave Skelding (26 no). Captain Matt Porter (24) was more fluent and kept the score moving. Losing Porter at 66, the experienced James Burgoyne set about the bowling scoring 27, with Skelding still struggling until his retirement in the 10th over. John Herdman added late runs for Pedmore without further loss. Tom Davies bowled his three overs for 27.

Enville 'B' started their reply very cautiously, opening pair Nick Sibley and Jon Howells putting on 61 for the first wicket with Howells retiring.

The inexperience of the remaining Enville batsmen showed as two run outs followed, reducing Enville to 77-3. The return of the openers gave Enville renewed hope of a victory but two smart run outs by Dan Such ended the innings on 99.

**Oldswinford (116-3) lost to Hagley (118-2) by four wickets**

OLDSWINFORD openers Harry Stanley (28) and Owen Williams (32 no) ran quickly between wickets.

Stanier retired first, then Tom Blunt (25 no) used his experience before the return of Williams with Blunt enabled a run fest in the remaining three overs.

Hagley in reply started with Joe Lennon (28 no) blasting the ball straight back past the bowlers. At the loss of his partner at 16, Paul Morgan (25 no) joined Lennon in a crucial stand.

Oldswinford slowed the new batsmen and were back in the game until Dan Giles (25 no) added new momentum and guided Hagley home with James Russell.

## Defeat deals blow to play-off hopes

**Workington 3 Halesowen 0**  
HALESOWEN'S hopes of making the play-offs suffered a blow with a 3-0 defeat at Workington who improved their own chances by moving into third place.

Workington were two up at half-time thanks to goals from Sam Smith and Gareth Arnison.

Halesowen did improve in the second half although Shaun Rowley was forced to make some good saves to keep Workington at bay.

The home side did increase their lead four minutes from time when Connor Tinnion finished off a neat passing move inside the area.

## DK are denied a bonus point



DK's Danny Hawkins moves to charge down a Bournville kick

### Bournville 28 DK 17

DK travelled to the unique surroundings of Bournville knowing this would be a defining match in their season, a good yardstick to measure against.

Both clubs were relegated last term and are now in the top echelons of the league, pressing for an immediate return.

DK did not get off to the best of starts when Duncan Tompkins put a penalty wide, then, following a good period of pressure, Shef Shillingford took a line close to a ruck and powered over the line. However, the large travelling DK crowd were soon deflated, and then confused

when the try was disallowed. Yet DK were given a five-metre scrum. Apparently, the referee deemed that he had prevented a tackle being made, but those five points would have given DK a losing bonus point.

Bournville then took a 5-0 lead and extended that following Lewis Hannibal's sin-binning.

Another try gave them a 13-0 half-time lead.

The third quarter was DK's as they took the lead through two tries, both converted by Tompkins and a penalty from the same player.

But Ed Parry received a yellow card at a ruck and the ensuing penalty was kicked before Bournville added two tries in the last 10 minutes with DK a man down..

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The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.

Thursday, January 28, 2016

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